



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 110th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 154

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, APRIL 29, 2008

No. 69

House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LARSEN of Washington).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
April 29, 2008.

I hereby appoint the Honorable RICK LARSEN to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

FEDERAL GAS TAX HOLIDAY A BAD IDEA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

During this election season, we've seen some pretty painful moments. It has been embarrassing, for instance, to watch the flip-flopping of Senator MCCAIN on tax cuts that he is now for before he was against them. But there is no idea that is as bad as his most recent suggestion that we just have a gas tax holiday, to suspend the 18.4 cent per gallon Federal gas tax from Memorial Day through Labor Day.

This is a really unfortunate suggestion. It's unfortunate to me that Senator CLINTON appears to be embracing it. I would hope that Senator CLINTON's

staff will help her remember her own words when this proposal was launched by one of her opponents in 2000 when she was running for the United States Senate, where Senator CLINTON pointed out that it would be a "bad deal for New York and a potential bonanza for the oil companies," which is why she opposed it back then. Her words were true in 2000 and they are true today. In fact, it's even more important.

First of all, there is absolutely no evidence that States that have suspended the gas tax have ended up putting any more money in the pockets of consumers. The research suggests that it's more likely that they have simply increased the amount of money that goes to the oil companies who are not reducing their prices to compensate for the reduction. At a time when ExxonMobil's profits set a new record of \$40.6 billion, we don't have to give them even more money at the expense of our infrastructure, because this proposal comes at a time when for the first time in history the highway trust fund is going into deficit. And this proposal would add more than \$10 billion to that deficit, money that will not go to State and local governments to deal with badly needed transportation infrastructure. It comes at a time when we recognize that our infrastructure is falling apart. The Society of Civil Engineers has graded it D-minus, and they're grading on a curve.

It would be far more logical and effective to help poor citizens and people in rural districts that have to drive a great deal directly as a part of the economic stimulus, or a rebate that actually gets into their hands, not to the oil companies. It would make more sense to invest in renewable futures and green jobs, like not allowing the production tax credit to expire at the end of the year, costing thousands of jobs in the wind energy business.

It makes sense to rebuild and renew America with a vision for the future,

attaching a budget priority, and be honest with the American public, not cheap political tricks that may sound good for a moment but will end up hurting us in the long run.

GAS PRICES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Gas prices have skyrocketed by more than 50 percent in the 15 months since the new majority took control of Congress. Back in North Carolina, constituents of the Fifth District and over the rest of the State are now paying \$1.33 more per gallon for gas than when the Democrats took over.

Two years ago, Speaker PELOSI promised the American people a "commonsense" plan to lower gasoline prices. We're still trying to figure out what that plan is. House Democrats have not only failed to offer any meaningful solutions, they've pushed policies that will have precisely the opposite effect.

This \$1.33 Pelosi premium is putting tremendous pressure on the budgets of the hardworking people of North Carolina. As gas prices soar to \$3.50 and beyond, I pose this question: How much will the Pelosi premium end up costing average Americans? If this is part of the "commonsense plan" to lower gas prices, I'm afraid it isn't working.

Middle class families and their increasingly tight budgets need relief, not more broken promises. While House Democrats propose more of the same—tax increases—House Republicans have offered real commonsense solutions to reduce America's dependence on foreign sources of energy, lower gas prices here at home, and invest in all forms of energy to create American jobs and grow our economy.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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U.S. CASUALTIES IN IRAQ

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT) for 5 minutes.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, we owe a debt of gratitude to Dana Milbank at the Washington Post and to Hal Bernton at one of my hometown newspapers, The Seattle Times. These two journalists, writing almost exactly 4 years apart, have pierced the veil of secrecy this administration shamefully uses to hide the painful images of U.S. casualties in Iraq and the touching and patriotic farewells by loved ones.

On Sunday, April 18, 2004, Bernton wrote a story called: The Somber Task of Honoring the Fallen. This poignant story included the first newspaper pictures of caskets being loaded into a military airplane. The story, which I will enter into the RECORD, set off a firestorm, because the administration did not want anyone to see the grim reality of war—rows of flag-draped coffins inside a military plane to begin the last homecoming. And the civilian contractor who took the pictures was fired for sharing them with the media. They were published at a time when the administration was doing everything to make people believe in its May 1, 2003, Mission Accomplished banner.

The administration continues to spin the message from that phony PR event. To do that, the administration continues to hide the grim reality of the Iraq war. Last Thursday, Milbank wrote a story in the Washington Post called: What the Family Would Let You See, the Pentagon Obstructs. Almost 4 years later after The Seattle Times story, the American people are still denied access to the truth.

Behind me is a photograph of Lieutenant Colonel Billy Hall from the Post story. Let me read an excerpt from that story:

"The family of 38-year-old Hall, who leaves behind two young daughters and two stepsons, gave their permission for the media to cover his Arlington burial—a decision many grieving families make so that the nation will learn about their loved ones' sacrifice. But the military had other ideas, and they arranged the marine's burial yesterday so that no sound, and few images, would make it into the public domain."

They don't want you to see the faces of our fallen heroes, and in my view that's outrageous. Lieutenant Colonel Hall is the highest ranking military officer to fall in Iraq. He went to Garfield High School in Seattle. He deserves to be buried according to the wishes of his family, not hidden from view, because the people running this war only want you to see the images that proclaim Mission Accomplished. I will not accept this disrespect for our soldiers and their families, or the outright distortion of the truth about the war. To honor our fallen heroes, I and many of my colleagues here in Washington have easels outside our congressional offices

with pictures and the names of service men and women who have died in Iraq.

Outside my office, there are three boards with the photographs of 94 soldiers from the State of Washington who have fallen in Iraq. Brave fallen heroes, including:

Specialist Christopher W. Dickison,
Major William G. Hall,
Lance Corporal Daniel Chavez,
1st Lieutenant Michael R. Adams,
Specialist Joshua M. Boyd,
Staff Sergeant Tracy L. Melvin,
Sergeant 1st Class Steven M. Langmack, all from Seattle.

I will enter into the RECORD the Web address where you can see the faces and the names of the fallen from every State:

<http://projects.washingtonpost.com/fallen/search/>

Instead of helping to provide closure to these wounded families, the President's surrogates are deepening the wounds for these families. They only want to share their grief and the pride in their loved ones. Who wouldn't be proud of Billy Hall? They want to share that with us.

Today, in full view, let us honor the ultimate sacrifice made by Lieutenant Colonel Billy Hall and the fallen soldiers from Washington and across this country.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

I ask for a moment of silence in honor of the following:

Sgt. Nathan P. Hayes, 21
Staff Sgt. Juan M. Ridout, 29
Lance Cpl. Cedric E. Bruns, 22
Spc. Justin W. Hebert, 20
Pfc. Kerry D. Scott, 21
Spc. John P. Johnson, 24
2nd Lt. Benjamin J. Colgan, 30
Spc. Robert Benson, 20
Sgt. Jay A. Blessing, 23
Spc. Nathan W. Nakis, 19
Sgt. Curt E. Jordan, Jr., 25
Staff Sgt. Christopher Bunda, 29
1st Lt. Michael R. Adams, 24
Spc. Jacob R. Herring, 21
Spc. Jeffrey R. Shaver, 26
Pfc. Cody S. Calavan, 19
Lance Cpl. Dustin L. Sides, 22
Staff Sgt. Marvin Best, 33
Spc. Jeremiah Schmunk, 21
Capt. Gergory A. Ratzlaff, 36
Sgt. Yadir Reynoso, 27
Lance Cpl. Kane M. Funke, 20
Lance Cpl. Caleb J. Powers, 21
Sgt. Jason Cook, 25
Sgt. Jacob H. Demand, 29
Cpl. Steven Rintamaki, 29
Staff Sgt. Michael Lee Burbank, 34
Spc. Jonathan J. Santos, 22
Staff Sgt. David G. Ries, 29
Lance Cpl. Nathan R. Wood, 19
Spc. Blain M. Ebert, 22
Spc. Harley D. R. Miller, 21
Pfc. Andrew M. Ward, 25
Staff Sgt. Kyle A. Eggers, 27
Pfc. Curtis L. Wooten III, 20
Chief Warrant Officer Clint J. Prather, 46
Maj. Steve Thornton, 46
Cpl. Jeffrey B. Starr, 22
Staff Sgt. Casey J. Crate, 26
Sgt. 1st Class Steven Langmack, 33
Lance Cpl. Daniel Chavez, 20
Spc. Christopher W. Dickison, 26
Lance Cpl. Shane C. Swanberg, 24
Sgt. 1st Class Lawrence Morrison, 45
Staff Sgt. Travis W. Nixon, 24
Cpl. Joseph P. Bier, 22

Staff Sgt. Christopher J. Vanderhorn, 37
1st Lt. Jaime L. Campbell, 25
Sgt. Charles E. Matheny IV, 23
Staff Sgt. Abraham Twitchell, 28
Spc. Eric D. King, 28
1st Lt. Forrest Ewens, 25
Pfc. Devon J. Gibbons, 28
Sgt. Justin D. Norton, 21
Pfc. Jason Hanson, 21
Staff Sgt. Tracy L. Melvin, 31
Spc. David J. Ramsey, 27
Master Sgt. Robb G. Needham, 51
Sgt. Velton Locklear III, 29
Staff Sgt. Ronald L. Paulsen, 53
Sgt. Lucas T. White, 28
Spc. Jordan W. Hess, 26
Maj. Megan M. McClung, 34
Cpl. Jeremiah J. Johnson, 23
Spc. James D. Riekena, 22
Cpl. Darrel J. Morris, 21
Maj. Alan R. Johnson, 44
Sgt. Mickel D. Garrigus, 24
Lance Cpl. Adam Q. Emul, 19
Sgt. Corey J. Aultz, 31
Sgt. Travis D. Pfister, 27
Spc. Ryan M. Bell, 21
Spc. Joshua M. Boyd
Staff Sgt. Casey D. Combs, 28
Staff Sgt. Coby G. Schwab, 25
Spc. Kelly B. Grothe, 21
Pfc. Jerome J. Potter, 24
Sgt. Dariek E. Dehn, 32
Cpl. Llythaniele Fender, 21
Pfc. Casey S. Carriker, 20
Chief Warrant Officer Scott A.M. Oswell, 33
Lance Cpl. Shawn V. Starkovich, 20
Pvt. Michael A. Bologna, 21
Cpl. Jason M. Kessler, 29
Sgt. Bryce D. Howard, 24
Spc. Matthew J. Emerson, 20
Spc. Vincent G. Kamka, 23
Lance Cpl. Jeremy W. Burris, 22
Sgt. 1st Class Johnny C. Walls, 41
Cpl. Christopher J. Nelson, 22
Sgt. Phillip R. Anderson, 28
Lance Cpl. Dustin L. Canham, 21
Spc. Durrell L. Bennett, 22
Lt. Col. William G. Hall, 38

[From the Seattle Times, Apr. 18, 2004]

THE SOMBER TASK OF HONORING THE FALLEN
(By Hal Bernton)

The aluminum boxes, in ordered rows, are bound by clean white straps on freshly scrubbed pallets. American flags are draped evenly over the boxes. Uniformed honor guards form on either side of the pallets as they move from the tarmac to the entryways of the cargo planes. There are prayers, salutes and hands on hearts. Then the caskets are carefully placed in cargo holds for a flight to Germany.

In recent weeks, military and civilian contract crews have loaded scores of these caskets onto planes departing the U.S. military area of Kuwait International Airport, south of Kuwait City. And the rituals are repeated over and over again.

"The way everyone salutes with such emotion and intensity and respect. The families would be proud to see their sons and daughters saluted like that," says Tami Silicio, a contract employee from the Seattle area who works the night shift at the cargo terminal.

For U.S. troops, April has been the worst month of this war, with at least 94 service members killed by hostile fire.

"So far this month, almost every night we send them home," Silicio said. "... It's tough. Very tough."

The remains arrive at the Kuwait airport accompanied by a soldier, sometimes a comrade from the same unit. On one occasion, the comrade was also the victim's father. Another time, the comrade was the wife.

Silicio knows what it is like to lose a child. The mother of three sons suffered the

death of her oldest to a brain tumor when he was 19. "It kind of helps me to know what these mothers are going through, and I try to watch over their children as they head home," she said in an interview conducted by telephone and e-mail.

Silicio, who grew up in Seattle and Edmonds, is used to hard work. After a decade of events-decorating work in the Seattle area, she went to war-torn Kosovo, where she worked on the transportation crew for a contractor during the NATO peacekeeping mission in 1999.

"Nothing scares her," said Silicio's mother, Leona Silicio.

Tami Silicio first went to work at the Kuwait airport in March 2003, before the start of the war. She then returned home but found it tough to get a job in an economy still sour from the recession. So by last October, she was back in Kuwait and her airport job for a contractor that works with the military to coordinate and process airport cargo.

The crews help move thousands of tons of supplies onto the Iraq-bound flights that support the U.S. military forces. Much of Silicio's job is handling paperwork to track the cargo. But she also might drive equipment to help load cargo, or make a quick run to a Kentucky Fried Chicken outlet to secure a few savory buckets to offer a soldier just in from Iraq.

Around Christmas, she helped handle a rash of incoming cargo from the United States—candy, shaving cream, razors, baby wipes and other items in care packages headed to Iraq. "Thank God, no fruitcakes," she e-mailed her mother. "The soldiers would just give it to the Iraqis, anyway."

Just after Christmas, there was a marathon of work as medical supplies to aid Iranian earthquake victims moved through Kuwait.

And now, the crews are helping to coordinate the departures of dozens of U.S. civilian contractors who, with the recent violence and kidnappings, no longer want to risk being in the region.

More time also is devoted to the dead. The fallen come into Kuwait on flights from Baghdad. Before they are loaded onto the outbound aircraft, soldiers in full uniform form parallel lines along the tarmac. There is a prayer. Then loaders lift up the coffins, which are joined on board by soldiers who share the final journey. After going first to Germany, according to the military, they fly to Dover Air Base in Delaware.

Since the 1991 Gulf War, photographs of coffins as they return to the United States have been tightly restricted. And few such photographs have been published during the conflict in Iraq.

On the April day depicted in the photograph that accompanies this story, more than 20 coffins went into a cargo plane bound for Germany. Silicio says those who lost loved ones in Iraq should understand the care and devotion that civilians and military crews dedicate to the task of returning the soldiers home.

Silicio says she shares her motto, "Purpose and Cause," with colleagues who appear worn down from the job: "We serve a purpose and we have a cause—that's what living life is all about."

[From the Washington Post, Apr. 24, 2008]

WHAT THE FAMILY WOULD LET YOU SEE, THE PENTAGON OBSTRUCTS

(By Dana Milbank)

Lt. Col. Billy Hall, one of the most senior officers to be killed in the Iraq war, was laid to rest yesterday at Arlington National Cemetery. It's hard to escape the conclusion that the Pentagon doesn't want you to know that.

The family of 38-year-old Hall, who leaves behind two young daughters and two stepsons, gave their permission for the media to cover his Arlington burial—a decision many grieving families make so that the nation will learn about their loved ones' sacrifice. But the military had other ideas, and they arranged the Marine's burial yesterday so that no sound, and few images, would make it into the public domain.

That's a shame, because Hall's story is a moving reminder that the war in Iraq, forgotten by much of the nation, remains real and present for some. Among those unlikely to forget the war: 6-year-old Gladys and 3-year-old Tatianna. The rest of the nation, if it remembers Hall at all, will remember him as the 4,011th American service member to die in Iraq, give or take, and the 419th to be buried at Arlington. Gladys and Tatianna will remember him as Dad.

The two girls were there in Section 60 yesterday beside grave 8,672—or at least it appeared that they were from a distance. Journalists were held 50 yards from the service, separated from the mourning party by six or seven rows of graves, and staring into the sun and penned in by a yellow rope. Photographers and reporters pleaded with Arlington officials.

"There will be a yellow rope in the face of the next of kin," protested one photographer with a large telephoto lens.

"This is the best shot you're going to get," a man from the cemetery replied.

"We're not going to be able to hear a thing," a reporter argued.

"Mm-hmm," an Arlington official answered.

The distance made it impossible to hear the words of Chaplain Ron Nordan, who, an official news release said, was leading the service. Even a reporter who stood surreptitiously just behind the mourners could make out only the familiar strains of the Lord's Prayer. Whatever Chaplain Nordan had to say about Hall's valor and sacrifice were lost to the drone of airplanes leaving National Airport.

It had the feel of a throwback to Donald Rumsfeld's Pentagon, when the military cracked down on photographs of flag-draped caskets returning home from the war. Rumsfeld himself was exposed for failing to sign by hand the condolence letters he sent to the next of kin. His successor, Robert Gates, has brought some glasnost to the Pentagon, but the military funerals remain tightly controlled. Even when families approve media coverage for a funeral, the journalists are held at a distance for the pageantry—the caisson, the band, the firing party, "Taps," the presenting of the flag—then whisked away when the service itself begins.

Nor does the blocking of funeral coverage seem to be the work of overzealous bureaucrats. Gina Gray, Arlington's new public affairs director, pushed vigorously to allow the journalists more access to the service yesterday—but she was apparently shot down by other cemetery officials.

Media whining? Perhaps. But the de facto ban on media at Arlington funerals fits neatly with an effort by the administration to sanitize the war in Iraq. That, in turn, has contributed to a public boredom with the war. A Pew Research Center poll earlier this month found that 14 percent of Americans considered Iraq the news story of most interest—less than half the 32 percent hooked on the presidential campaign and barely more than the 11 percent hooked on the raid of a polygamist compound in Texas.

On March 29, a week before the raid on the polygamists' ranch, William G. Hall was riding from his quarters to the place in Fallujah where he was training Iraqi troops when his vehicle hit an improvised explosive

device. He was taken into surgery, but he died from his injuries. The Marines awarded him a posthumous promotion from major to lieutenant colonel.

Newspapers in Seattle, where Hall had lived, printed an e-mail the fallen fighter had sent his family two days before his death.

"I am sure the first question in each of your minds is my safety, and I am happy to tell you that I'm safe and doing well," he wrote, giving his family a hopeful picture of events in Iraq. "I know most of what you hear on the news about Iraq is not usually good news and that so many are dying over here," the e-mail said. "That is true to an extent but it does not paint the total picture, and violence is not everywhere throughout the country. So please don't associate what you see on the news with all of Iraq. 'Love you and miss you,'" he wrote. "I'll write again soon."

Except, of course, that he didn't. And yesterday, his family walked slowly behind the horse-drawn caisson to section 60. In the front row of mourners, one young girl trudged along, clinging to a grown-up's hand; another child found a ride on an adult's shoulders.

It was a moving scene—and one the Pentagon shouldn't try to hide from the American public.

REAL HEALTH CARE SOLUTIONS FOR AMERICAN FAMILIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. BOUSTANY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BOUSTANY. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, Americans remain frustrated with the cost of health care. As costs rise, fears grow that they'll lose coverage and even fall into bankruptcy. Americans face this anxiety every day. But it doesn't need to be that way. We can give all American families confidence in a health care system.

Americans deserve more affordable and more widely available health care. Americans deserve real access to health care, not just health care coverage that doesn't lead to access but real access to health care. That's why we must modernize our health care system and learn from other sectors of the economy where competition has driven down costs, particularly in the insurance arena, so that we can drive down those premium costs and make it more affordable for all American families.

When addressing health care, Washington fails to put the needs of the patient first. I know this as a physician. I was in private practice for 14 years and saw how policies really drove a wedge between the patient and their doctor.

Patients want personal, quality, high-value health care. That's what we all want. That's going to be the way that we get true quality in health care. We must focus on what patients most want and need: prevention, early detection, early diagnosis, control of chronic illnesses, enhancing the quality of life, and wellness programs.

I know as a physician that trying to get a patient to quit smoking takes a

lot of work. Simple television commercials and public service announcements, while they help, won't do the job. But if you have a doctor-patient relationship where the doctor knows the patient and that trust develops and a doctor supports the patient in their effort to quit smoking, it's much more likely to be successful.

The same thing with dietary measures. These are the kinds of things that we need to do that will help reduce the cost of health care and will help make Americans more healthy. These are the kinds of solutions that will help Americans stay out of hospitals and avoid other expensive institutional forms of treatment.

Just yesterday, my colleagues and I across the aisle debated these very issues at the Cincinnati Children's Hospital. It was a great debate. But let me say that Republicans focused on strengthening the doctor-patient relationship that is fundamental to good quality health care. As I said before, we can't expect good quality health care to come about without this fundamental relationship between a doctor and a patient.

We think back to the old days, of Marcus Welby and how a physician portrayed as Marcus Welby on television had that relationship with the patient and their family. We think back to Norman Rockwell paintings that depict this type of relationship that patients had with the doctor, of mutual trust that focused not just on sickness but on health, not just on the disease process but how the disease affected the entire patient's well-being and their family circumstances.

These are the things that we as Republicans want to focus on as we try to introduce information technology into health care, a wide range of choices for families to pick a good health care policy that meets their specific needs, not somebody else picking what they need, let families pick what they need and put families back in control of their health care destiny.

Our opponents on the other side of the aisle have suggested a one-size-fits-all program, something like you see in Canada or in England where there are waiting lists for care. I know as a physician that when I was in Rochester, New York, we had patients who were being told they couldn't have heart surgery for 18 months and they were coming across the border into the U.S. to have their heart surgery done. A friend of mine who is a heart surgeon in England was told 6 months into the year that he couldn't do any more heart surgery and when he attempted to do so, his superiors threatened to fire him. Think of the patients that suffered because of this type of rationing of care. That's not what Americans want. Americans want a health care system that provides access and that's affordable and available.

I know, I think everyone knows, that Americans deserve better than what we're getting, and I know and I'm very

confident that we can make it better if we adhere to those principles I outlined earlier, of information and choice and patient and family control. We can create a health care system that meets patients' needs and allays Americans' anxieties, a health care system that gives all of us confidence that our health care needs will be taken care of. And we can do this by putting in place new policies that respond to consumer needs, individual needs, and the demands for more available and affordable health insurance and for more control over our health care decisions. That's what we all want. We want a health care system that provides real access to care, not just coverage on paper. There are far too many examples of where folks have coverage but not real access. We want access.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 48 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BLUMENAUER) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

Dr. William Lloyd Birch, retired Baptist minister, Florence, South Carolina, offered the following prayer:

We are so grateful for the blessings You have given to us. But the blessings of the past will not suffice for the needs of today. We know that if we commit ourselves to You, You will help us to focus on the needs of our Nation.

We confess that so often we fall short of the expectations You have for us. We are tempted and so often we succumb to these temptations. We put ourselves before others. We fail to show our brothers and sisters the love that You want us to demonstrate by the quality of our lives.

As we face this day, help us to be honest, unselfish, compassionate people. What have we gained if we obtain success in the eyes of the world and yet lose the sense of Your presence and Your will among us?

May Your kingdom come. May Your will be done. We pray in the name of our Lord, the God of our Nation.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CLYBURN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. CLYBURN led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 2929. An act to temporarily extend the programs under the Higher Education Act of 1965.

WELCOMING DR. WILLIAM LLOYD BIRCH

(Mr. CLYBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, it is indeed a pleasure for me to welcome and thank the gentleman and scholar who provided us with today's invocation. Dr. William Lloyd Birch hails from my congressional district. He is an ordained minister in Florence, South Carolina.

Over his illustrious ministerial career, Dr. Birch has served as interim pastor in more than 42 churches. Dr. Birch is the founder of the Sociology Department at Francis Marion University, and chaired it for over 30 years. Prior to his retirement, Dr. Birch was a family therapist, and chaired the South Carolina Board of Licensing.

Dr. Birch is known by many in the Pee Dee area of South Carolina as their professor, as the minister who baptized their children or performed their son's or daughter's weddings, as the interim pastor at their church, or as the counselor who guided them through a family crisis.

Many have also seen him riding his horses, fox hunting or playing the bluegrass music he loves. Many of us are grateful for his work throughout the Pee Dee communities in South Carolina.

He is joined here today by his wife of 57 years, Jean, and I thank both of them for their daughter Lindy's work in my office on behalf of the people of South Carolina and the Nation.

BLACKBERRY CAPER

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, last week, President Bush and President Calderon of Mexico met in New Orleans to discuss mutual concerns of both nations, such as trade. Electronic devices by staff are not permitted in these meetings, and are left on a table outside the room.

After the high level talks concluded, a senior official with Mexico, Rafael Curiel, was caught on video grabbing seven White House BlackBerry's off the outside table. He was nabbed with the booty by the Secret Service at the airport as he was about to make good his getaway.

He gave numerous contradictory accounts about why he had the White House BlackBerry's. Then he said he was innocent. When all else failed, he claimed diplomatic immunity, and left the United States for Mexico.

Mr. Speaker, Rafael Curiel is just misunderstood. Obviously, when the White House discussion centered around free trade with the two countries, Curiel took the phrase "free trade" literally and did a little free trading on his own with those American BlackBerry's.

Mexico has since fired the free trader.

And that's just the way it is.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 29, 2008.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on April 29, 2008, at 10:36 a.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 2829.

That the Senate agreed to S. Con. Res. 74.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

LORRAINE C. MILLER,
Clerk of the House.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 28, 2008.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on April 28, 2008, at 3:21 p.m.:

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 4286.

That the Senate agreed to without amendment H. Con. Res. 322.

That the Senate requests the return of the papers H.R. 493.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

LORRAINE C. MILLER,
Clerk of the House.

COMMUNICATION FROM DISTRICT DIRECTOR, THE HONORABLE PHIL GINGREY, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from Janet Byington, District Director, the Honorable PHIL GINGREY, Member of Congress:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 21, 2008.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: This is to formally notify you, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have been served with a civil trial subpoena for testimony issued by the Superior Court of Floyd County, Georgia.

After consulting with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is inconsistent with the privileges and rights of the House.

Sincerely,

JANET BYINGTON,
District Director,
Congressman Phil Gingrey.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

MASHANTUCKET PEQUOT (WEST- ERN) TRIBE LEASE EXTENSIONS

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 2457) to provide for extensions of leases of certain land by Mashantucket Pequot (Western) Tribe.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

The text of the Senate bill is as follows:

S. 2457

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. EXTENSIONS OF LEASES OF CERTAIN LAND BY MASHANTUCKET PEQUOT (WESTERN) TRIBE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Any lease of restricted land of the Mashantucket Pequot (Western) Tribe (referred to in this section as the "Tribe") entered into on behalf of the Tribe by the tribal corporation of the Tribe chartered pursuant to section 17 of the Act of June 18, 1934 (25 U.S.C. 477), may include an option to renew the lease for not more than 2 additional terms, each of which shall not exceed 25 years, subject only to the approval of the tribal council of the Tribe.

(b) LIABILITY OF UNITED STATES.—The United States shall not be liable to any party for any loss resulting from a renewal of a lease entered into pursuant to subsection (a).

(c) PROHIBITION ON GAMING ACTIVITIES.—No entity may conduct any gaming activity (within the meaning of section 4 of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (25 U.S.C. 2703))

pursuant to a claim of inherent authority or any Federal law (including the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (25 U.S.C. 2701 et seq.) and any regulations promulgated by the Secretary of the Interior or the National Indian Gaming Commission pursuant to that Act) on any land that is leased with an option to renew the lease in accordance with this section.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL) and the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from West Virginia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from West Virginia?

There was no objection.

Mr. RAHALL. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. RAHALL asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RAHALL. Existing Federal law allows tribal corporations to lease tribal land for a term of 25 years. However, there are instances where the Congress has provided the authority for a tribal corporation to engage in even longer terms.

The pending measure would give the Mashantucket Pequot Tribe of Connecticut the ability to lease its lands for not more than two additional terms of up to 25 years each, for a total of 75 years, in an effort to assist this tribe, expand its economy and assist its members.

Furthermore, it prohibits any entity from conducting gaming activity on any land that is leased with an option to renew under this act.

I would note that this measure passed the other body by unanimous consent. And I would commend our colleague from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON) for his leadership and championing this measure in the House.

I urge its passage and I reserve the balance of my time, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Senate bill 2457 provides for extensions of leases of certain land by the Mashantucket Pequot Tribe of Connecticut. The leased land is for non-gaming commercial purposes. I urge support of this legislation as does the administration.

I have no additional speakers. Therefore, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. RAHALL. I yield back the balance of my time, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 2457.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the Senate bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

JICARILLA APACHE RESERVATION CONVEYANCE

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3522) to ratify a conveyance of a portion of the Jicarilla Apache Reservation to Rio Arriba County, State of New Mexico, pursuant to the settlement of litigation between the Jicarilla Apache Nation and Rio Arriba County, State of New Mexico, to authorize issuance of a patent for said lands, and to change the exterior boundary of the Jicarilla Apache Reservation accordingly, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3522

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. DEFINITIONS.

For the purposes of this act, the following definitions apply:

(1) JICARILLA APACHE NATION.—The term “Jicarilla Apache Nation” means the Jicarilla Apache Nation, a tribe of American Indians recognized by the United States and organized under section 16 of the Act of June 18, 1934 (25 U.S.C. 476; popularly known as the Indian Reorganization Act).

(2) 1988 RESERVATION ADDITION.—The term “1988 Reservation Addition” means those lands, known locally as the Theis Ranch, that are described in the Federal Register published on September 26, 1988 at 53 F.R. 37355–56 and were added to the Jicarilla Apache Reservation in New Mexico in 1988.

(3) SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT.—The term “Settlement Agreement” means the agreement executed by the President of the Jicarilla Apache Nation on May 6, 2003 and executed by the Chairman of the Rio Arriba Board of County Commissioners on May 15, 2003 and approved by the Department of the Interior on June 18, 2003 to settle the Lawsuit.

(4) LAWSUIT.—The term “Lawsuit” means the case identified as Jicarilla Apache Tribe v. Board of County Commissioners, County of Rio Arriba, No. RA 87–2225(C), State of New Mexico District Court, First Judicial District, filed in October 1987.

(5) RIO ARRIBA COUNTY.—The term “Rio Arriba County” means the political subdivision of the state of New Mexico described in Section 4–21–1 and Section 4–21–2, New Mexico Statutes Annotated 1978 (Original Pamphlet).

(6) SETTLEMENT LANDS.—The term “Settlement Lands” means Tract A and Tract B as described in the plat of the “Dependent Resurvey and Survey of Tract within Theis Ranch” within the Tierra Amarilla Grant, New Mexico prepared by Leo P. Kelley, Cadastral Surveyor, United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, dated January 7, 2004, and recorded in the office of the Rio Arriba County Clerk on March 8, 2004, in Cabinet C–1, Page 199, Document No. 242411, consisting of 70.75 acres more or less. Title to the Settlement Lands is held by the United States in trust for the Jicarilla Apache Nation.

(7) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(8) DISPUTED COUNTY ROAD.—The term “Disputed County Road” means the county road passing through the 1988 Reservation Addition along the course identified in the judgment entered by the New Mexico District Court in the Lawsuit on December 10, 2001 and the decision entered on December 11, 2001, which judgment and decision have been appealed to the New Mexico Court of Appeals.

SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The Lawsuit is now pending before the Court of Appeals of the State of New Mexico and involves a claim that a county road passing through the 1988 Reservation Addition had been established by prescription prior to acquisition of the land by the Jicarilla Apache Nation in 1985.

(2) The parties to that lawsuit, the Jicarilla Apache Nation and the County of Rio Arriba, have executed a Settlement Agreement, approved by the Secretary of the Interior, to resolve all claims relating to the disputed county road, which agreement requires ratifying legislation by the Congress of the United States.

(3) The parties to the Settlement Agreement desire to settle the claims relating to the disputed county road on the terms agreed to by the parties, and it is in the best interests of the parties to resolve the claims through the Settlement Agreement and this implementing legislation.

SEC. 3. CONDITION ON EFFECT OF SECTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 4 of this Act shall not take effect until the Secretary finds the following events have occurred:

(1) The Board of Commissioners of Rio Arriba County has enacted a resolution permanently abandoning the disputed county road and has submitted a copy of that resolution to the Secretary.

(2) The Jicarilla Apache Nation has executed a quitclaim deed to Rio Arriba County for the Settlement Lands subject to the exceptions identified in the Settlement Agreement and has submitted a copy of the quitclaim deed to the Secretary.

(b) PUBLICATION OF FINDINGS.—If the Secretary finds that the conditions set forth in subsection (a) have occurred, the Secretary shall publish such findings in the Federal Register.

SEC. 4. RATIFICATION OF CONVEYANCE; ISSUANCE OF PATENT.

(a) CONDITIONAL RATIFICATION AND APPROVAL.—This Act ratifies and approves the Jicarilla Apache Nation's quitclaim deed for the Settlement Lands to Rio Arriba County, but such ratification and approval shall be effective only upon satisfaction of all conditions in section 3, and only as of the date that the Secretary's findings are published in the Federal Register pursuant to section 3.

(b) PATENT.—Following publication of the notice described in section 3, the Secretary shall issue to Rio Arriba County a patent for the Settlement Lands, subject to the exceptions and restrictive covenants described subsection (c).

(c) CONDITIONS OF PATENT.—The patent to be issued by the Secretary under subsection (b) shall be subject to all valid existing rights of third parties, including but not limited to easements of record, and shall include the following perpetual restrictive covenant running with the Settlement Lands for the benefit of the lands comprising the Jicarilla Apache Reservation adjacent to the Settlement Lands: “Tract A shall be used only for governmental purposes and shall not be used for a prison, jail or other facility for incarcerating persons accused or convicted of a

crime. For purposes of this restrictive covenant,” governmental purposes “shall include the provision of governmental services to the public by Rio Arriba County and the development and operation of private businesses to the extent permitted by applicable State law.”.

SEC. 5. BOUNDARY CHANGE.

Upon issuance of the patent authorized by section 4, the lands conveyed to Rio Arriba County in the patent shall cease to be a part of the Jicarilla Apache Reservation and the exterior boundary of the Jicarilla Apache Reservation shall be deemed relocated accordingly.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL) and the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from West Virginia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from West Virginia?

There was no objection.

Mr. RAHALL. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. RAHALL asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RAHALL. Passage of the pending measure will resolve a longstanding dispute between the Jicarilla Apache Nation and the county of Rio Arriba in New Mexico over a disputed road. The tribe and the county have agreed to a settlement which requires the approval of Congress in order to become effective.

Under this settlement agreement, the tribe will transfer 70.5 acres of land located within its expanded 1988 reservation to the county. In exchange, the county will abandon any and all claims to the disputed road.

I would like to commend our colleague from New Mexico for his super leadership and determination, Mr. TOM UDALL, for bringing this bill before us today.

Some of the more difficult and contentious issues that we deal with are those of property lines and jurisdictions of towns, private landowners and Indian tribes. Mr. UDALL has never shied away from such matters when they affect the Indian tribes of New Mexico, and I commend him. I urge my colleagues to support its passage.

□ 1415

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 3522 implements a settlement agreement worked out by the tribe and Rio Arriba County. As a result, the parties resolve a long-lasting litigation by conveying tribal lands to the county for transportation purposes.

I support the settlement along with the administration. I urge my colleagues to do the same thing.

We have no additional speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. RAHALL. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3522.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

TUOLUMNE ME-WUK LAND TRANSFER ACT OF 2008

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3490) to transfer administrative jurisdiction of certain Federal lands from the Bureau of Land Management to the Bureau of Indian Affairs, to take such lands into trust for Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians of the Tuolumne Rancheria, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3490

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Tuolumne Me-Wuk Land Transfer Act of 2008".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) the Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians of the Tuolumne Rancheria, California (referred to in this Act as the "Tribe"), is a federally recognized Indian tribe;

(2) 3 tracts of Federal lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management are adjacent to the Tuolumne Rancheria of California, a federally recognized Indian Reservation held in trust for the benefit of the Tribe;

(3) one such tract is a cemetery within which are buried the remains of ancestors of the Tribe and other Indians;

(4) another such tract is needed for use by the Tribe for a cultural center and other public uses of the Tribe;

(5) the remaining tract is needed for use by the Tribe for agricultural, housing, and open space needs;

(6) none of the foregoing 3 tracts are to be used by the Tribe for gaming purposes;

(7) certain parcels of lands adjacent to the Tuolumne Rancheria were taken into trust for the benefit of the Tribe; and

(8) 2 parcels of fee lands owned by the Tribe and adjacent to the Tuolumne Rancheria, commonly referred to as the "Thomas and Coenenburg properties", have been approved and are pending transfer into trust status by the Bureau of Indian Affairs for the benefit of the Tribe.

SEC. 3. LANDS TO BE TAKEN INTO TRUST.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) FEDERAL LANDS.—Subject to valid existing rights, all right, title, and interest (including improvements and appurtenances) of the United States in and to the Federal lands described in subsection (b), immediately after the Secretary of the Interior has confirmed that the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 has been com-

plied with regarding the trust acquisition of those Federal lands, the Federal lands shall be declared to be held in trust by the United States for the benefit of the Tribe for nongaming purposes, and shall be subject to the same terms and conditions as those lands described in the California Indian Land Transfer Act of 2000 (title IX, Public Law 106-568; 114 Stat. 2868, 2921).

(2) TRUST LANDS.—Lands described in subsection (c) of this section that are taken or to be taken in trust by the United States for the benefit of the Tribe shall be subject to subsection (c) of section 903 of the California Indian Land Transfer Act of 2000.

(b) FEDERAL LANDS DESCRIBED.—The Federal lands described in this subsection, comprising approximately 66 acres, are as follows:

(1) Township 1 North, Range 16 East, Section 6, Lots 10 and 12, MDM, containing 50.24 acres more or less.

(2) Township 1 North, Range 16 East, Section 5, Lot 16, MDM, containing 15.35 acres more or less.

(3) Township 2 North, Range 16 East, Section 32, Indian Cemetery Reservation within Lot 22, MDM, containing 0.4 acres more or less.

(c) TRUST LANDS DESCRIBED.—The trust lands described in this subsection, comprising approximately 357 acres, are commonly referred to as follows:

(1) Thomas property, pending trust acquisition, 104.50 acres.

(2) Coenenburg property, pending trust acquisition, 192.70 acres, subject to existing easements of record, including but not limited to a non-exclusive easement for ingress and egress for the benefit of adjoining property as conveyed by Easement Deed recorded July 13, 1984, in Volume 755, Pages 189 to 192, and as further defined by Stipulation and Judgment entered by Tuolumne County Superior Court on September 2, 1983, and recorded June 4, 1984, in Volume 751, Pages 61 to 67.

(3) Assessor Parcel No. 620505300, 1.5 acres, trust land.

(4) Assessor Parcel No. 620505400, 19.23 acres, trust land.

(5) Assessor Parcel No. 620505600, 3.46 acres, trust land.

(6) Assessor Parcel No. 620505700, 7.44 acres, trust land.

(7) Assessor Parcel No. 620401700, 0.8 acres, trust land.

(8) A portion of Assessor Parcel No. 620500200, 2.5 acres, trust land.

(9) Assessor Parcel No. 620506200, 24.87 acres, trust land.

(d) SURVEY.—As soon as practicable after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Office of Cadastral Survey of the Bureau of Land Management shall complete fieldwork required for a survey of the lands described in subsections (b) and (c) for the purpose of incorporating those lands within the boundaries of the Tuolumne Rancheria. Not later than 90 days after that fieldwork is completed, that office shall complete the survey.

(e) LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS.—

(1) PUBLICATION.—On approval by the Community Council of the Tribe of the survey completed under subsection (d), the Secretary of the Interior shall publish in the Federal Register—

(A) a legal description of the new boundary lines of the Tuolumne Rancheria; and

(B) a legal description of the land surveyed under subsection (d).

(2) EFFECT.—Beginning on the date on which the legal descriptions are published under paragraph (1), such legal descriptions shall be the official legal descriptions of those boundary lines of the Tuolumne Rancheria and the lands surveyed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL) and the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from West Virginia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from West Virginia?

There was no objection.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, this measure introduced by our colleague from California, GEORGE RADANOVICH, would transfer approximately 66 acres of land from the Bureau of Land Management to the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

This land would be held in trust for the Tuolumne band of Me-Wuk Indians of the Tuolumne Rancheria. The BLM land is adjacent to land held in trust for the tribe or that is owned in fee by the tribe. Included on this land is a cemetery where the tribe has historically buried its ancestors.

Other areas of this land would be used for a cultural center, agricultural activities, housing, and open-space needs. The legislation prohibits these lands from being used for gaming.

In addition, approximately 357 acres of land which the tribe already owns would be deemed to be within the tribe's reservation boundaries.

Essentially, the purpose of this legislation is to make this tribe whole.

I urge my colleagues to support the measure.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3490 takes 66 acres of Federal land into trust for the tribe's existing reservation for nongaming purposes. In addition, it deems three tracts of adjacent land part of the tribe's reservation in the Sierra Nevada. The tribe will use the lands to alleviate overcrowded housing, to build a cultural center, for agriculture, and for open space. They will also continue to use the land as a cemetery.

Congressman RADANOVICH should be commended for his work on this bill, and I urge my colleagues to join the administration in support of this particular piece of legislation.

I yield back my time.

Mr. RAHALL. I yield back my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3490, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CHIEF STANDING BEAR

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1043) honoring the life and legacy of Chief Standing Bear, a pioneer in civil rights for Native Americans, on the 100th anniversary of Chief Standing Bear's death.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1043

Whereas Chief Standing Bear was born on Ponca land in what is now Nebraska;

Whereas Chief Standing Bear became chief of the Ponca Tribe at a young age because of his leadership abilities;

Whereas, in 1878, Chief Standing Bear and the Ponca Tribe were forced by a Federal treaty to leave their home for Indian Territory in what is now Oklahoma;

Whereas the hardship of travel, illness, and the inhospitable conditions of Indian Territory caused many members of the tribe to perish including Chief Standing Bear's son;

Whereas Chief Standing Bear, determined to bury his son in his homeland, led 30 members of his tribe back to their home in Nebraska;

Whereas Chief Standing Bear and the 30 members of his tribe were arrested by the Department of the Interior upon their return;

Whereas Chief Standing Bear enlisted the help of Thomas Tibbles of the predecessor to the Omaha World-Herald and 2 attorneys to petition the Federal court to rule on the Ponca Tribe's treatment by the Government;

Whereas, in 1879, the case came before Judge Elmer Dundy;

Whereas Chief Standing Bear, at the conclusion of the court proceedings, extended his hand as he took the oath and said, "That hand is not the color of yours, but if I pierce it, I shall feel pain. If you pierce your hand, you also feel pain. The blood that will flow from mine will be the same color as yours. I am a man. God made us both";

Whereas as Judge Dundy ultimately ruled that Native Americans were citizens with all of the rights and freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution;

Whereas the Ponca won their freedom and eventually were able to return to their home in Nebraska;

Whereas Chief Standing Bear would spend the next 4 years touring the Eastern United States promoting Native American rights;

Whereas Chief Standing Bear demonstrated the highest level of courage and determination;

Whereas Chief Standing Bear made a vital contribution to civil rights for Native Americans; and

Whereas 2008 is the 100th anniversary of Chief Standing Bear's death: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives honors the life, legacy, and contributions to civil rights of Chief Standing Bear.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL) and the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from West Virginia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and in-

clude extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from West Virginia?

There was no objection.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. RAHALL asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RAHALL. Chief Standing Bear, a member of the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska, stood against the grains of injustice in the name of his people. His valuable and historic contributions as a Native American leader would be further honored on the 100th anniversary of his death through this resolution.

I would like to commend our colleague from Nebraska (Mr. FORTENBERRY) for sponsoring this resolution that is before us today.

I urge my colleagues to support its passage.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 1043 honors the life and legacy of Chief Standing Bear, a pioneer in civil rights for Native Americans. This resolution also commemorates the 100th anniversary of his death, and I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Chief Standing Bear.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from Nebraska, the sponsor of this bill, the author of this bill, Mr. FORTENBERRY.

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to begin by thanking the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL) for his assistance in bringing this important resolution to the floor, as well as the distinguished gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) for his assistance as well.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution, a measure I introduced earlier this year to honor the life and legacy of Chief Standing Bear. His plea for justice and human decency challenged the heart of our Nation, yet his poignant story as one of America's earliest civil rights leaders remains largely unknown.

2008 is the 100th anniversary of Chief Standing Bear's death. It is fitting that we honor this anniversary, that generations of Americans will know his life and his legacy.

Standing Bear was born in the Niobrara River Valley, in what is now Nebraska, in 1834. An individual of exceptional talent and ability, he became chief of the Ponca Tribe at a young age. In 1877, the Ponca people were forced by treaty to relocate from their home in Nebraska to the Indian territory of Oklahoma. The hardship of this 500-mile journey on foot, illnesses, as well as the harsh living conditions in Oklahoma, caused the death of many

members of the tribe, including Chief Standing Bear's son.

Committed to a promise he made to his son to return him to their Niobrara homeland for burial, Chief Standing Bear left for Nebraska with all who would follow him. Upon their return, the Chief and 30 of his fellow Ponca Tribe members were arrested by the Department of Interior in Omaha.

With the assistance of Omaha attorneys, John Webster and A.J. Poppleton, and frontier newsman, Thomas Tibbles, who worked for the predecessor to our current newspaper in Omaha, the Omaha World-Herald, Chief Standing Bear petitioned the Federal courts for relief from the unjust Federal treatment of the Ponca Tribe.

In 1879, the case came before U.S. District Court Judge Elmer Dundy. At the conclusion of his testimony, Chief Standing Bear raised his hand and he spoke these words: "That hand is not the color of yours," he said. "But if I pierce it, I shall feel pain. If you pierce your hand, you will also feel pain. The blood that will flow from mine will be the same color as yours. I am a man. God made us both."

The wisdom and dignity in Standing Bear's words were not lost on Judge Dundy who ruled that Native Americans are, in fact, citizens endowed with all of the rights and all of the freedoms guaranteed by the United States Constitution. Through the steadfast efforts of Chief Standing Bear and caring Nebraskans, the Ponca won their freedom and the right to return to their Nebraska homeland on the Niobrara where Chief Standing Bear declared, "Here we will live, and here we will die."

Chief Standing Bear would spend the next 4 years touring the United States advocating for Native Americans' civil rights and inspiring a generation. Then he returned to his home near the mouth of Niobrara, farmed his land, and died there a quarter century later in 1908.

Mr. Speaker, the courage and determination of Chief Standing Bear have earned him a place in our civil rights history. His example is an inspiration for all those engaged in the advancement of civil rights, of human rights.

I want to thank all of my colleagues in the House who have been supportive of bringing this resolution to the floor so that we can rightly honor this great man, Chief Standing Bear.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time. I am prepared to yield back.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. I yield back my time.

Mr. RAHALL. I yield back my time. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1043.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the

rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONSOLIDATED NATURAL RESOURCES ACT OF 2008

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 2739) to authorize certain programs and activities in the Department of the Interior, the Forest Service, and the Department of Energy, to implement further the Act approving the Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America, to amend the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

The text of the Senate bill is as follows:

S. 2739

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008”.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—FOREST SERVICE AUTHORIZATIONS

Sec. 101. Wild Sky Wilderness.

Sec. 102. Designation of national recreational trail, Willamette National Forest, Oregon, in honor of Jim Weaver, a former Member of the House of Representatives.

TITLE II—BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT AUTHORIZATIONS

Sec. 201. Piedras Blancas Historic Light Station.

Sec. 202. Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse Outstanding Natural Area.

Sec. 203. Nevada National Guard land conveyance, Clark County, Nevada.

TITLE III—NATIONAL PARK SERVICE AUTHORIZATIONS

Subtitle A—Cooperative Agreements

Sec. 301. Cooperative agreements for national park natural resource protection.

Subtitle B—Boundary Adjustments and Authorizations

Sec. 311. Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site boundary adjustment.

Sec. 312. Lowell National Historical Park boundary adjustment.

Sec. 313. Minidoka National Historic Site.

Sec. 314. Acadia National Park improvement.

Subtitle C—Studies

Sec. 321. National Park System special resource study, Newtonia Civil War Battlefields, Missouri.

Sec. 322. National Park Service study regarding the Soldiers' Memorial Military Museum.

Sec. 323. Wolf House study.

Sec. 324. Space Shuttle Columbia study.

Sec. 325. César E. Chávez study.

Sec. 326. Taunton, Massachusetts, special resource study.

Sec. 327. Rim of the Valley Corridor study.

Subtitle D—Memorials, Commissions, and Museums

Sec. 331. Commemorative work to honor Brigadier General Francis Marion and his family.

Sec. 332. Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial Commission.

Sec. 333. Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Museum of the American Latino.

Sec. 334. Hudson-Fulton-Champlain Quadricentennial Commemoration Commission.

Sec. 335. Sense of Congress regarding the designation of the Museum of the American Quilter's Society of the United States.

Sec. 336. Sense of Congress regarding the designation of the National Museum of Wildlife Art of the United States.

Sec. 337. Redesignation of Ellis Island Library.

Subtitle E—Trails and Rivers

Sec. 341. Authorization and administration of Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail.

Sec. 342. Land conveyance, Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail, Nebraska.

Sec. 343. Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail extension.

Sec. 344. Wild and scenic River designation, Eightmile River, Connecticut.

Subtitle F—Denali National Park and Alaska Railroad Exchange

Sec. 351. Denali National Park and Alaska Railroad Corporation exchange.

Subtitle G—National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Amendments

Sec. 361. Authorizing appropriations for specific purposes.

Subtitle H—Grand Canyon Subcontractors

Sec. 371. Definitions.

Sec. 372. Authorization.

TITLE IV—NATIONAL HERITAGE AREAS

Subtitle A—Journey Through Hallowed Ground National Heritage Area

Sec. 401. Purposes.

Sec. 402. Definitions.

Sec. 403. Designation of the Journey Through Hallowed Ground National Heritage Area.

Sec. 404. Management plan.

Sec. 405. Evaluation; report.

Sec. 406. Local coordinating entity.

Sec. 407. Relationship to other Federal agencies.

Sec. 408. Private property and regulatory protections.

Sec. 409. Authorization of appropriations.

Sec. 410. Use of Federal funds from other sources.

Sec. 411. Sunset for grants and other assistance.

Subtitle B—Niagara Falls National Heritage Area

Sec. 421. Purposes.

Sec. 422. Definitions.

Sec. 423. Designation of the Niagara Falls National Heritage Area.

Sec. 424. Management plan.

Sec. 425. Evaluation; report.

Sec. 426. Local coordinating entity.

Sec. 427. Niagara Falls Heritage Area Commission.

Sec. 428. Relationship to other Federal agencies.

Sec. 429. Private property and regulatory protections.

Sec. 430. Authorization of appropriations.

Sec. 431. Use of Federal funds from other sources.

Sec. 432. Sunset for grants and other assistance.

Subtitle C—Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area

Sec. 441. Purposes.

Sec. 442. Definitions.

Sec. 443. Designation of Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area.

Sec. 444. Management plan.

Sec. 445. Evaluation; report.

Sec. 446. Local coordinating entity.

Sec. 447. Relationship to other Federal agencies.

Sec. 448. Private property and regulatory protections.

Sec. 449. Authorization of appropriations.

Sec. 450. Use of Federal funds from other sources.

Sec. 451. Sunset for grants and other assistance.

Subtitle D—Authorization Extensions and Viability Studies

Sec. 461. Extensions of authorized appropriations.

Sec. 462. Evaluation and report.

Subtitle E—Technical Corrections and Additions

Sec. 471. National Coal Heritage Area technical corrections.

Sec. 472. Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area addition.

Sec. 473. South Carolina National Heritage Corridor addition.

Sec. 474. Ohio and Erie Canal National Heritage Corridor technical corrections.

Sec. 475. New Jersey Coastal Heritage trail route extension of authorization.

Subtitle F—Studies

Sec. 481. Columbia-Pacific National Heritage Area study.

Sec. 482. Study of sites relating to Abraham Lincoln in Kentucky.

TITLE V—BUREAU OF RECLAMATION AND UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY AUTHORIZATIONS

Sec. 501. Alaska water resources study.

Sec. 502. Renegotiation of payment schedule, Redwood Valley County Water District.

Sec. 503. American River Pump Station Project transfer.

Sec. 504. Arthur V. Watkins Dam enlargement.

Sec. 505. New Mexico water planning assistance.

Sec. 506. Conveyance of certain buildings and lands of the Yakima Project, Washington.

Sec. 507. Conjunctive use of surface and groundwater in Juab County, Utah.

Sec. 508. Early repayment of A & B Irrigation District construction costs.

Sec. 509. Oregon water resources.

Sec. 510. Republican River Basin feasibility study.

Sec. 511. Eastern Municipal Water District.

Sec. 512. Bay Area regional water recycling program.

Sec. 513. Bureau of Reclamation site security.

Sec. 514. More water, more energy, and less waste.

Sec. 515. Platte River Recovery Implementation Program and Pathfinder Modification Project authorization.

Sec. 516. Central Oklahoma Master Conservatory District feasibility study.

TITLE VI—DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AUTHORIZATIONS

Sec. 601. Energy technology transfer.

Sec. 602. Amendments to the Steel and Aluminum Energy Conservation and Technology Competitiveness Act of 1988.

TITLE VII—NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Subtitle A—Immigration, Security, and Labor

- Sec. 701. Statement of congressional intent.
 Sec. 702. Immigration reform for the Commonwealth.
 Sec. 703. Further amendments to Public Law 94-241.
 Sec. 704. Authorization of appropriations.
 Sec. 705. Effective date.

Subtitle B—Northern Mariana Islands Delegate

- Sec. 711. Delegate to House of Representatives from Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.
 Sec. 712. Election of Delegate.
 Sec. 713. Qualifications for Office of Delegate.
 Sec. 714. Determination of election procedure.
 Sec. 715. Compensation, privileges, and immunities.
 Sec. 716. Lack of effect on covenant.
 Sec. 717. Definition.
 Sec. 718. Conforming amendments regarding appointments to military service academies by Delegate from the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

TITLE VIII—COMPACTS OF FREE ASSOCIATION AMENDMENTS

- Sec. 801. Approval of Agreements.
 Sec. 802. Funds to facilitate Federal activities.
 Sec. 803. Conforming amendment.
 Sec. 804. Clarifications regarding Palau.
 Sec. 805. Availability of legal services.
 Sec. 806. Technical amendments.
 Sec. 807. Transmission of videotape programming.
 Sec. 808. Palau road maintenance.
 Sec. 809. Clarification of tax-free status of trust funds.
 Sec. 810. Transfer of naval vessels to certain foreign recipients.

TITLE I—FOREST SERVICE AUTHORIZATIONS

SEC. 101. WILD SKY WILDERNESS.

(a) ADDITIONS TO THE NATIONAL WILDERNESS PRESERVATION SYSTEM.—

(1) ADDITIONS.—The following Federal lands in the State of Washington are hereby designated as wilderness and, therefore, as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System: certain lands which comprise approximately 106,000 acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled “Wild Sky Wilderness Proposal” and dated February 6, 2007, which shall be known as the “Wild Sky Wilderness”.

(2) MAP AND LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall file a map and a legal description for the wilderness area designated under this section with the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives. The map and description shall have the same force and effect as if included in this section, except that the Secretary of Agriculture may correct clerical and typographical errors in the legal description and map. The map and legal description shall be on file and available for public inspection in the office of the Chief of the Forest Service, Department of Agriculture.

(b) ADMINISTRATION PROVISIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—

(A) Subject to valid existing rights, lands designated as wilderness by this section shall be managed by the Secretary of Agriculture in accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.) and this section, except that, with respect to any wilderness areas

designated by this section, any reference in the Wilderness Act to the effective date of the Wilderness Act shall be deemed to be a reference to the date of enactment of this Act.

(B) To fulfill the purposes of this section and the Wilderness Act and to achieve administrative efficiencies, the Secretary of Agriculture may manage the area designated by this section as a comprehensive part of the larger complex of adjacent and nearby wilderness areas.

(2) NEW TRAILS.—

(A) The Secretary of Agriculture shall consult with interested parties and shall establish a trail plan for Forest Service lands in order to develop—

(i) a system of hiking and equestrian trails within the wilderness designated by this section in a manner consistent with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.); and

(ii) a system of trails adjacent to or to provide access to the wilderness designated by this section.

(B) Within 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall complete a report on the implementation of the trail plan required under this section. This report shall include the identification of priority trails for development.

(3) REPEATER SITE.—Within the Wild Sky Wilderness, the Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to use helicopter access to construct and maintain a joint Forest Service and Snohomish County telecommunications repeater site, in compliance with a Forest Service approved communications site plan, for the purposes of improving communications for safety, health, and emergency services.

(4) FLOAT PLANE ACCESS.—As provided by section 4(d)(1) of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1133(d)(1)), the use of floatplanes on Lake Isabel, where such use has already become established, shall be permitted to continue subject to such reasonable restrictions as the Secretary of Agriculture determines to be desirable.

(5) EVERGREEN MOUNTAIN LOOKOUT.—The designation under this section shall not preclude the operation and maintenance of the existing Evergreen Mountain Lookout in the same manner and degree in which the operation and maintenance of such lookout was occurring as of the date of enactment of this Act.

(c) AUTHORIZATION FOR LAND ACQUISITION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to acquire lands and interests therein, by purchase, donation, or exchange, and shall give priority consideration to those lands identified as “Priority Acquisition Lands” on the map described in subsection (a)(1). The boundaries of the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest and the Wild Sky Wilderness shall be adjusted to encompass any lands acquired pursuant to this section.

(2) ACCESS.—Consistent with section 5(a) of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1134(a)), the Secretary of Agriculture shall ensure adequate access to private inholdings within the Wild Sky Wilderness.

(3) APPRAISAL.—Valuation of private lands shall be determined without reference to any restrictions on access or use which arise out of designation as a wilderness area as a result of this section.

(4) LAND EXCHANGES.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall exchange lands and interests in lands, as generally depicted on a map entitled “Chelan County Public Utility District Exchange” and dated May 22, 2002, with the Chelan County Public Utility District in accordance with the following provisions:

(1) If the Chelan County Public Utility District, within 90 days after the date of enact-

ment of this Act, offers to the Secretary of Agriculture approximately 371.8 acres within the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest in the State of Washington, the Secretary shall accept such lands.

(2) Upon acceptance of title by the Secretary of Agriculture to such lands and interests therein, the Secretary of Agriculture shall convey to the Chelan County Public Utility District a permanent easement, including helicopter access, consistent with such levels as used as of the date of enactment of this Act, to maintain an existing telemetry site to monitor snow pack on 1.82 acres on the Wenatchee National Forest in the State of Washington.

(3) The exchange directed by this section shall be consummated if Chelan County Public Utility District conveys title acceptable to the Secretary and provided there is no hazardous material on the site, which is objectionable to the Secretary.

(4) In the event Chelan County Public Utility District determines there is no longer a need to maintain a telemetry site to monitor the snow pack for calculating expected runoff into the Lake Chelan hydroelectric project and the hydroelectric projects in the Columbia River Basin, the Secretary shall be notified in writing and the easement shall be extinguished and all rights conveyed by this exchange shall revert to the United States.

SEC. 102. DESIGNATION OF NATIONAL RECREATIONAL TRAIL, WILLAMETTE NATIONAL FOREST, OREGON, IN HONOR OF JIM WEAVER, A FORMER MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

(a) DESIGNATION.—Forest Service trail number 3590 in the Willamette National Forest in Lane County, Oregon, which is a 19.6 mile trail that begins and ends at North Waldo Campground and circumnavigates Waldo Lake, is hereby designated as a national recreation trail under section 4 of the National Trails System Act (16 U.S.C. 1243) and shall be known as the “Jim Weaver Loop Trail”.

(b) INTERPRETIVE SIGN.—Using funds available for the Forest Service, the Secretary of Agriculture shall prepare, install, and maintain an appropriate sign at the trailhead of the Jim Weaver Loop Trail to indicate the name of the trail and to provide information regarding the life and career of Congressman Jim Weaver.

TITLE II—BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT AUTHORIZATIONS

SEC. 201. PIEDRAS BLANCAS HISTORIC LIGHT STATION.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) LIGHT STATION.—The term “Light Station” means Piedras Blancas Light Station.

(2) OUTSTANDING NATURAL AREA.—The term “Outstanding Natural Area” means the Piedras Blancas Historic Light Station Outstanding Natural Area established pursuant to subsection (c).

(3) PUBLIC LANDS.—The term “public lands” has the meaning stated in section 103(e) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1703(e)).

(4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(b) FINDINGS.—Congress finds as follows:

(1) The publicly owned Piedras Blancas Light Station has nationally recognized historical structures that should be preserved for present and future generations.

(2) The coastline adjacent to the Light Station is internationally recognized as having significant wildlife and marine habitat that provides critical information to research institutions throughout the world.

(3) The Light Station tells an important story about California’s coastal prehistory and history in the context of the surrounding region and communities.

(4) The coastal area surrounding the Light Station was traditionally used by Indian people, including the Chumash and Salinan Indian tribes.

(5) The Light Station is historically associated with the nearby world-famous Hearst Castle (Hearst San Simeon State Historical Monument), now administered by the State of California.

(6) The Light Station represents a model partnership where future management can be successfully accomplished among the Federal Government, the State of California, San Luis Obispo County, local communities, and private groups.

(7) Piedras Blancas Historic Light Station Outstanding Natural Area would make a significant addition to the National Landscape Conservation System administered by the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Land Management.

(8) Statutory protection is needed for the Light Station and its surrounding Federal lands to ensure that it remains a part of our historic, cultural, and natural heritage and to be a source of inspiration for the people of the United States.

(C) DESIGNATION OF THE PIEDRAS BLANCAS HISTORIC LIGHT STATION OUTSTANDING NATURAL AREA.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In order to protect, conserve, and enhance for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations the unique and nationally important historical, natural, cultural, scientific, educational, scenic, and recreational values of certain lands in and around the Piedras Blancas Light Station, in San Luis Obispo County, California, while allowing certain recreational and research activities to continue, there is established, subject to valid existing rights, the Piedras Blancas Historic Light Station Outstanding Natural Area.

(2) MAPS AND LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS.—The boundaries of the Outstanding Natural Area as those shown on the map entitled "Piedras Blancas Historic Light Station: Outstanding Natural Area", dated May 5, 2004, which shall be on file and available for public inspection in the Office of the Director, Bureau of Land Management, United States Department of the Interior, and the State office of the Bureau of Land Management in the State of California.

(3) BASIS OF MANAGEMENT.—The Secretary shall manage the Outstanding Natural Area as part of the National Landscape Conservation System to protect the resources of the area, and shall allow only those uses that further the purposes for the establishment of the Outstanding Natural Area, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), and other applicable laws.

(4) WITHDRAWAL.—Subject to valid existing rights, and in accordance with the existing withdrawal as set forth in Public Land Order 7501 (Oct. 12, 2001, Vol. 66, No. 198, Federal Register 52149), the Federal lands and interests in lands included within the Outstanding Natural Area are hereby withdrawn from—

(A) all forms of entry, appropriation, or disposal under the public land laws;

(B) location, entry, and patent under the public land mining laws; and

(C) operation of the mineral leasing and geothermal leasing laws and the mineral materials laws.

(d) MANAGEMENT OF THE PIEDRAS BLANCAS HISTORIC LIGHT STATION OUTSTANDING NATURAL AREA.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall manage the Outstanding Natural Area in a manner that conserves, protects, and enhances the unique and nationally important historical, natural, cultural, scientific, educational, scenic, and recreational values of

that area, including an emphasis on preserving and restoring the Light Station facilities, consistent with the requirements of subsection (c)(3).

(2) USES.—Subject to valid existing rights, the Secretary shall only allow such uses of the Outstanding Natural Area as the Secretary finds are likely to further the purposes for which the Outstanding Natural Area is established as set forth in subsection (c)(1).

(3) MANAGEMENT PLAN.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall complete a comprehensive management plan consistent with the requirements of section 202 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1712) to provide long-term management guidance for the public lands within the Outstanding Natural Area and fulfill the purposes for which it is established, as set forth in subsection (c)(1). The management plan shall be developed in consultation with appropriate Federal, State, and local government agencies, with full public participation, and the contents shall include—

(A) provisions designed to ensure the protection of the resources and values described in subsection (c)(1);

(B) objectives to restore the historic Light Station and ancillary buildings;

(C) an implementation plan for a continuing program of interpretation and public education about the Light Station and its importance to the surrounding community;

(D) a proposal for minimal administrative and public facilities to be developed or improved at a level compatible with achieving the resources objectives for the Outstanding Natural Area as described in paragraph (1) and with other proposed management activities to accommodate visitors and researchers to the Outstanding Natural Area; and

(E) cultural resources management strategies for the Outstanding Natural Area, prepared in consultation with appropriate departments of the State of California, with emphasis on the preservation of the resources of the Outstanding Natural Area and the interpretive, education, and long-term scientific uses of the resources, giving priority to the enforcement of the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 (16 U.S.C. 470aa et seq.) and the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.) within the Outstanding Natural Area.

(4) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—In order to better implement the management plan and to continue the successful partnerships with the local communities and the Hearst San Simeon State Historical Monument, administered by the California Department of Parks and Recreation, the Secretary may enter into cooperative agreements with the appropriate Federal, State, and local agencies pursuant to section 307(b) of the Federal Land Management Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1737(b)).

(5) RESEARCH ACTIVITIES.—In order to continue the successful partnership with research organizations and agencies and to assist in the development and implementation of the management plan, the Secretary may authorize within the Outstanding Natural Area appropriate research activities for the purposes identified in subsection (c)(1) and pursuant to section 307(a) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1737(a)).

(6) ACQUISITION.—State and privately held lands or interests in lands adjacent to the Outstanding Natural Area and identified as appropriate for acquisition in the management plan may be acquired by the Secretary as part of the Outstanding Natural Area only by—

(A) donation;

(B) exchange with a willing party; or

(C) purchase from a willing seller.

(7) ADDITIONS TO THE OUTSTANDING NATURAL AREA.—Any lands or interest in lands adjacent to the Outstanding Natural Area acquired by the United States after the date of enactment of this Act shall be added to and administered as part of the Outstanding Natural Area.

(8) OVERFLIGHTS.—Nothing in this section or the management plan shall be construed to—

(A) restrict or preclude overflights, including low level overflights, military, commercial, and general aviation overflights that can be seen or heard within the Outstanding Natural Area;

(B) restrict or preclude the designation or creation of new units of special use airspace or the establishment of military flight training routes over the Outstanding Natural Area; or

(C) modify regulations governing low-level overflights above the adjacent Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary.

(9) LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to preclude or otherwise affect coastal border security operations or other law enforcement activities by the Coast Guard or other agencies within the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Justice, or any other Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies within the Outstanding Natural Area.

(10) NATIVE AMERICAN USES AND INTERESTS.—In recognition of the past use of the Outstanding Natural Area by Indians and Indian tribes for traditional cultural and religious purposes, the Secretary shall ensure access to the Outstanding Natural Area by Indians and Indian tribes for such traditional cultural and religious purposes. In implementing this subsection, the Secretary, upon the request of an Indian tribe or Indian religious community, shall temporarily close to the general public use of one or more specific portions of the Outstanding Natural Area in order to protect the privacy of traditional cultural and religious activities in such areas by the Indian tribe or Indian religious community. Any such closure shall be made to affect the smallest practicable area for the minimum period necessary for such purposes. Such access shall be consistent with the purpose and intent of Public Law 95-341 (42 U.S.C. 1996 et seq.; commonly referred to as the "American Indian Religious Freedom Act").

(11) NO BUFFER ZONES.—The designation of the Outstanding Natural Area is not intended to lead to the creation of protective perimeters or buffer zones around area. The fact that activities outside the Outstanding Natural Area and not consistent with the purposes of this section can be seen or heard within the Outstanding Natural Area shall not, of itself, preclude such activities or uses up to the boundary of the Outstanding Natural Area.

(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this section.

SEC. 202. JUPITER INLET LIGHTHOUSE OUTSTANDING NATURAL AREA.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COMMANDANT.—The term "Commandant" means the Commandant of the Coast Guard.

(2) LIGHTHOUSE.—The term "Lighthouse" means the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse located in Palm Beach County, Florida.

(3) LOCAL PARTNERS.—The term "Local Partners" includes—

(A) Palm Beach County, Florida;

(B) the Town of Jupiter, Florida;

(C) the Village of Tequesta, Florida; and

(D) the Loxahatchee River Historical Society.

(4) MANAGEMENT PLAN.—The term “management plan” means the management plan developed under subsection (c)(1).

(5) MAP.—The term “map” means the map entitled “Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse Outstanding Natural Area” and dated October 29, 2007.

(6) OUTSTANDING NATURAL AREA.—The term “Outstanding Natural Area” means the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse Outstanding Natural Area established by subsection (b)(1).

(7) PUBLIC LAND.—The term “public land” has the meaning given the term “public lands” in section 103(e) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1702(e)).

(8) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(9) STATE.—The term “State” means the State of Florida.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT OF THE JUPITER INLET LIGHTHOUSE OUTSTANDING NATURAL AREA.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Subject to valid existing rights, there is established for the purposes described in paragraph (2) the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse Outstanding Natural Area, the boundaries of which are depicted on the map.

(2) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the Outstanding Natural Area are to protect, conserve, and enhance the unique and nationally important historic, natural, cultural, scientific, educational, scenic, and recreational values of the Federal land surrounding the Lighthouse for the benefit of present generations and future generations of people in the United States, while—

(A) allowing certain recreational and research activities to continue in the Outstanding Natural Area; and

(B) ensuring that Coast Guard operations and activities are unimpeded within the boundaries of the Outstanding Natural Area.

(3) AVAILABILITY OF MAP.—The map shall be on file and available for public inspection in appropriate offices of the Bureau of Land Management.

(4) WITHDRAWAL.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to valid existing rights, subsection (e), and any existing withdrawals under the Executive orders and public land order described in subparagraph (B), the Federal land and any interests in the Federal land included in the Outstanding Natural Area are withdrawn from—

(i) all forms of entry, appropriation, or disposal under the public land laws;

(ii) location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and

(iii) operation of the mineral leasing and geothermal leasing laws and the mineral materials laws.

(B) DESCRIPTION OF EXECUTIVE ORDERS.—The Executive orders and public land order described in subparagraph (A) are—

(i) the Executive Order dated October 22, 1854;

(ii) Executive Order No. 4254 (June 12, 1925); and

(iii) Public Land Order No. 7202 (61 Fed. Reg. 29758).

(c) MANAGEMENT PLAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in consultation with the Commandant, shall develop a comprehensive management plan in accordance with section 202 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1712) to—

(A) provide long-term management guidance for the public land in the Outstanding Natural Area; and

(B) ensure that the Outstanding Natural Area fulfills the purposes for which the Outstanding Natural Area is established.

(2) CONSULTATION; PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.—The management plan shall be developed—

(A) in consultation with appropriate Federal, State, county, and local government agencies, the Commandant, the Local Partners, and other partners; and

(B) in a manner that ensures full public participation.

(3) EXISTING PLANS.—The management plan shall, to the maximum extent practicable, be consistent with existing resource plans, policies, and programs.

(4) INCLUSIONS.—The management plan shall include—

(A) objectives and provisions to ensure—

(i) the protection and conservation of the resource values of the Outstanding Natural Area; and

(ii) the restoration of native plant communities and estuaries in the Outstanding Natural Area, with an emphasis on the conservation and enhancement of healthy, functioning ecological systems in perpetuity;

(B) objectives and provisions to maintain or recreate historic structures;

(C) an implementation plan for a program of interpretation and public education about the natural and cultural resources of the Lighthouse, the public land surrounding the Lighthouse, and associated structures;

(D) a proposal for administrative and public facilities to be developed or improved that—

(i) are compatible with achieving the resource objectives for the Outstanding Natural Area described in subsection (d)(1)(A)(ii); and

(ii) would accommodate visitors to the Outstanding Natural Area;

(E) natural and cultural resource management strategies for the Outstanding Natural Area, to be developed in consultation with appropriate departments of the State, the Local Partners, and the Commandant, with an emphasis on resource conservation in the Outstanding Natural Area and the interpretive, educational, and long-term scientific uses of the resources; and

(F) recreational use strategies for the Outstanding Natural Area, to be prepared in consultation with the Local Partners, appropriate departments of the State, and the Coast Guard, with an emphasis on passive recreation.

(5) INTERIM PLAN.—Until a management plan is adopted for the Outstanding Natural Area, the Jupiter Inlet Coordinated Resource Management Plan (including any updates or amendments to the Jupiter Inlet Coordinated Resource Management Plan) shall be in effect.

(d) MANAGEMENT OF THE JUPITER INLET LIGHTHOUSE OUTSTANDING NATURAL AREA.—

(1) MANAGEMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Local Partners and the Commandant, shall manage the Outstanding Natural Area—

(i) as part of the National Landscape Conservation System;

(ii) in a manner that conserves, protects, and enhances the unique and nationally important historical, natural, cultural, scientific, educational, scenic, and recreational values of the Outstanding Natural Area, including an emphasis on the restoration of native ecological systems; and

(iii) in accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) and other applicable laws.

(B) LIMITATION.—In managing the Outstanding Natural Area, the Secretary shall not take any action that precludes, prohibits, or otherwise affects the conduct of ongoing or future Coast Guard operations or activities on lots 16 and 18, as depicted on the map.

(2) USES.—Subject to valid existing rights and subsection (e), the Secretary shall only allow uses of the Outstanding Natural Area that the Secretary, in consultation with the Commandant and Local Partners, determines would likely further the purposes for which the Outstanding Natural Area is established.

(3) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—To facilitate implementation of the management plan and to continue the successful partnerships with local communities and other partners, the Secretary may, in accordance with section 307(b) of the Federal Land Management Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1737(b)), enter into cooperative agreements with the appropriate Federal, State, county, other local government agencies, and other partners (including the Loxahatchee River Historical Society) for the long-term management of the Outstanding Natural Area.

(4) RESEARCH ACTIVITIES.—To continue successful research partnerships, pursue future research partnerships, and assist in the development and implementation of the management plan, the Secretary may, in accordance with section 307(a) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1737(a)), authorize the conduct of appropriate research activities in the Outstanding Natural Area for the purposes described in subsection (b)(2).

(5) ACQUISITION OF LAND.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), the Secretary may acquire for inclusion in the Outstanding Natural Area any State or private land or any interest in State or private land that is—

(i) adjacent to the Outstanding Natural Area; and

(ii) identified in the management plan as appropriate for acquisition.

(B) MEANS OF ACQUISITION.—Land or an interest in land may be acquired under subparagraph (A) only by donation, exchange, or purchase from a willing seller with donated or appropriated funds.

(C) ADDITIONS TO THE OUTSTANDING NATURAL AREA.—Any land or interest in land adjacent to the Outstanding Natural Area acquired by the United States after the date of enactment of this Act under subparagraph (A) shall be added to, and administered as part of, the Outstanding Natural Area.

(6) LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES.—Nothing in this section, the management plan, or the Jupiter Inlet Coordinated Resource Management Plan (including any updates or amendments to the Jupiter Inlet Coordinated Resource Management Plan) precludes, prohibits, or otherwise affects—

(A) any maritime security, maritime safety, or environmental protection mission or activity of the Coast Guard;

(B) any border security operation or law enforcement activity by the Department of Homeland Security or the Department of Justice; or

(C) any law enforcement activity of any Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency in the Outstanding Natural Area.

(7) FUTURE DISPOSITION OF COAST GUARD FACILITIES.—If the Commandant determines, after the date of enactment of this Act, that Coast Guard facilities within the Outstanding Natural Area exceed the needs of the Coast Guard, the Commandant may relinquish the facilities to the Secretary without removal, subject only to any environmental remediation that may be required by law.

(e) EFFECT ON ONGOING AND FUTURE COAST GUARD OPERATIONS.—Nothing in this section, the management plan, or the Jupiter Inlet Coordinated Resource Management Plan (including updates or amendments to the Jupiter Inlet Coordinated Resource Management

Plan) precludes, prohibits, or otherwise affects ongoing or future Coast Guard operations or activities in the Outstanding Natural Area, including—

(1) the continued and future operation of, access to, maintenance of, and, as may be necessitated for Coast Guard missions, the expansion, enhancement, or replacement of, the Coast Guard High Frequency antenna site on lot 16;

(2) the continued and future operation of, access to, maintenance of, and, as may be necessitated for Coast Guard missions, the expansion, enhancement, or replacement of, the military family housing area on lot 18;

(3) the continued and future use of, access to, maintenance of, and, as may be necessitated for Coast Guard missions, the expansion, enhancement, or replacement of, the pier on lot 18;

(4) the existing lease of the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse on lot 18 from the Coast Guard to the Loxahatchee River Historical Society; or

(5) any easements or other less-than-fee interests in property appurtenant to existing Coast Guard facilities on lots 16 and 18.

(f) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this section.

SEC. 203. NEVADA NATIONAL GUARD LAND CONVEYANCE, CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, Clark County, Nevada, may convey, without consideration, to the Nevada Division of State Lands for use by the Nevada National Guard approximately 51 acres of land in Clark County, Nevada, as generally depicted on the map entitled “Southern Nevada Readiness Center Act” and dated October 4, 2005.

(b) **LIMITATION.**—If the land described in subsection (a) ceases to be used by the Nevada National Guard, the land shall revert to Clark County, Nevada, for management in accordance with the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-263; 112 Stat. 2343).

TITLE III—NATIONAL PARK SERVICE AUTHORIZATIONS

Subtitle A—Cooperative Agreements

SEC. 301. COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS FOR NATIONAL PARK NATURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of the Interior (referred to in this section as the “Secretary”) may enter into cooperative agreements with State, local, or tribal governments, other Federal agencies, other public entities, educational institutions, private nonprofit organizations, or participating private landowners for the purpose of protecting natural resources of units of the National Park System through collaborative efforts on land inside and outside of National Park System units.

(b) **TERMS AND CONDITIONS.**—A cooperative agreement entered into under subsection (a) shall provide clear and direct benefits to park natural resources and—

(1) provide for—

(A) the preservation, conservation, and restoration of coastal and riparian systems, watersheds, and wetlands;

(B) preventing, controlling, or eradicating invasive exotic species that are within a unit of the National Park System or adjacent to a unit of the National Park System; or

(C) restoration of natural resources, including native wildlife habitat or ecosystems;

(2) include a statement of purpose demonstrating how the agreement will—

(A) enhance science-based natural resource stewardship at the unit of the National Park System; and

(B) benefit the parties to the agreement;

(3) specify any staff required and technical assistance to be provided by the Secretary or other parties to the agreement in support of activities inside and outside the unit of the National Park System that will—

(A) protect natural resources of the unit of the National Park System; and

(B) benefit the parties to the agreement;

(4) identify any materials, supplies, or equipment and any other resources that will be contributed by the parties to the agreement or by other Federal agencies;

(5) describe any financial assistance to be provided by the Secretary or the partners to implement the agreement;

(6) ensure that any expenditure by the Secretary pursuant to the agreement is determined by the Secretary to support the purposes of natural resource stewardship at a unit of the National Park System; and

(7) include such other terms and conditions as are agreed to by the Secretary and the other parties to the agreement.

(c) **LIMITATIONS.**—The Secretary shall not use any funds associated with an agreement entered into under subsection (a) for the purposes of land acquisition, regulatory activity, or the development, maintenance, or operation of infrastructure, except for ancillary support facilities that the Secretary determines to be necessary for the completion of projects or activities identified in the agreement.

(d) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this section.

Subtitle B—Boundary Adjustments and Authorizations

SEC. 311. CARL SANDBURG HOME NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT.

(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **HISTORIC SITE.**—The term “Historic Site” means Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site.

(2) **MAP.**—The term “map” means the map entitled “Sandburg Center Alternative” numbered 445/80.017 and dated April 2007.

(3) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(b) **ACQUISITION AUTHORITY.**—The Secretary may acquire from willing sellers by donation, purchase with donated or appropriated funds, or exchange not more than 110 acres of land, water, or interests in land and water, within the area depicted on the map, to be added to the Historic Site.

(c) **VISITOR CENTER.**—To preserve the historic character and landscape of the site, the Secretary may also acquire up to five acres for the development of a visitor center and visitor parking area adjacent to or in the general vicinity of the Historic Site.

(d) **BOUNDARY REVISION.**—Upon acquisition of any land or interest in land under this section, the Secretary shall revise the boundary of the Historic Site to reflect the acquisition.

(e) **AVAILABILITY OF MAP.**—The map shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the National Park Service.

(f) **ADMINISTRATION.**—Land added to the Historic Site by this section shall be administered as part of the Historic Site in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

SEC. 312. LOWELL NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT.

The Act entitled “An Act to provide for the establishment of the Lowell National Historical Park in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and for other purposes” approved June 5, 1978 (Public Law 95-290; 92 Stat. 290; 16 U.S.C. 410cc et seq.) is amended as follows:

(1) In section 101(a), by adding a new paragraph after paragraph (2) as follows:

“(3) The boundaries of the park are modified to include five parcels of land identified on the map entitled ‘Boundary Adjustment, Lowell National Historical Park,’ numbered 475/81.424B and dated September 2004, and as delineated in section 202(a)(2)(G).”

(2) In section 202(a)(2), by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(G) The properties shown on the map identified in subsection (101)(a)(3) as follows:

“(i) 91 Pevey Street.

“(ii) The portion of 607 Middlesex Place.

“(iii) Eagle Court.

“(iv) The portion of 50 Payne Street.

“(v) 726 Broadway.”

SEC. 313. MINIDOKA NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE.

(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(2) **STATE.**—The term “State” means the State of Idaho.

(b) **BAINBRIDGE ISLAND JAPANESE AMERICAN MEMORIAL.**—

(1) **BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The boundary of the Minidoka Internment National Monument, located in the State and established by Presidential Proclamation 7395 of January 17, 2001, is adjusted to include the Nidoto Nai Yoni (“Let it not happen again”) memorial (referred to in this subsection as the “memorial”), which—

(i) commemorates the Japanese Americans of Bainbridge Island, Washington, who were the first to be forcibly removed from their homes and relocated to internment camps during World War II under Executive Order No. 9066; and

(ii) consists of approximately 8 acres of land owned by the City of Bainbridge Island, Washington, as depicted on the map entitled “Bainbridge Island Japanese American Memorial”, numbered 194/80.003, and dated September, 2006.

(B) **MAP.**—The map referred to in subparagraph (A) shall be kept on file and made available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the National Park Service.

(2) **ADMINISTRATION OF MEMORIAL.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The memorial shall be administered as part of the Minidoka Internment National Monument.

(B) **AGREEMENTS.**—To carry out this subsection, the Secretary may enter into agreements with—

(i) the City of Bainbridge Island, Washington;

(ii) the Bainbridge Island Metropolitan Park and Recreational District;

(iii) the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Community Memorial Committee;

(iv) the Bainbridge Island Historical Society; and

(v) other appropriate individuals or entities.

(C) **IMPLEMENTATION.**—To implement an agreement entered into under this paragraph, the Secretary may—

(i) enter into a cooperative management agreement relating to the operation and maintenance of the memorial with the City of Bainbridge Island, Washington, in accordance with section 3(l) of Public Law 91-383 (16 U.S.C. 1a-2(l)); and

(ii) enter into cooperative agreements with, or make grants to, the City of Bainbridge Island, Washington, and other non-Federal entities for the development of facilities, infrastructure, and interpretive media at the memorial, if any Federal funds provided by a grant or through a cooperative agreement are matched with non-Federal funds.

(D) ADMINISTRATION AND VISITOR USE SITE.—The Secretary may operate and maintain a site in the State of Washington for administrative and visitor use purposes associated with the Minidoka Internment National Monument.

(C) ESTABLISHMENT OF MINIDOKA NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE.—

(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(A) HISTORIC SITE.—The term “Historic Site” means the Minidoka National Historic Site established by paragraph (2)(A).

(B) MINIDOKA MAP.—The term “Minidoka Map” means the map entitled “Minidoka National Historic Site, Proposed Boundary Map”, numbered 194/80,004, and dated December 2006.

(2) ESTABLISHMENT.—

(A) NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE.—In order to protect, preserve, and interpret the resources associated with the former Minidoka Relocation Center where Japanese Americans were incarcerated during World War II, there is established the Minidoka National Historic Site.

(B) MINIDOKA INTERNMENT NATIONAL MONUMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Minidoka Internment National Monument (referred to in this subsection as the “Monument”), as described in Presidential Proclamation 7395 of January 17, 2001, is abolished.

(ii) INCORPORATION.—The land and any interests in the land at the Monument are incorporated within, and made part of, the Historic Site.

(iii) FUNDS.—Any funds available for purposes of the Monument shall be available for the Historic Site.

(C) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law (other than in this title), map, regulation, document, record, or other paper of the United States to the “Minidoka Internment National Monument” shall be considered to be a reference to the “Minidoka National Historic Site”.

(3) BOUNDARY OF HISTORIC SITE.—

(A) BOUNDARY.—The boundary of the Historic Site shall include—

(i) approximately 292 acres of land, as depicted on the Minidoka Map; and

(ii) approximately 8 acres of land, as described in subsection (b)(1)(A)(ii).

(B) AVAILABILITY OF MAP.—The Minidoka Map shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the National Park Service.

(4) LAND TRANSFERS AND ACQUISITION.—

(A) TRANSFER FROM BUREAU OF RECLAMATION.—Administrative jurisdiction over the land identified on the Minidoka Map as “BOR parcel 1” and “BOR parcel 2”, including any improvements on, and appurtenances to, the parcels, is transferred from the Bureau of Reclamation to the National Park Service for inclusion in the Historic Site.

(B) TRANSFER FROM BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT.—Administrative jurisdiction over the land identified on the Minidoka Map as “Public Domain Lands” is transferred from the Bureau of Land Management to the National Park Service for inclusion in the Historic Site, and the portions of any prior Secretarial orders withdrawing the land are revoked.

(C) ACQUISITION AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may acquire any land or interest in land located within the boundary of the Historic Site, as depicted on the Minidoka Map, by—

(i) donation;

(ii) purchase with donated or appropriated funds from a willing seller; or

(iii) exchange.

(5) ADMINISTRATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Historic Site shall be administered in accordance with—

(i) this Act; and

(ii) laws (including regulations) generally applicable to units of the National Park System, including—

(I) the National Park Service Organic Act (16 U.S.C. 1 et seq.); and

(II) the Act of August 21, 1935 (16 U.S.C. 461 et seq.).

(B) INTERPRETATION AND EDUCATION.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall interpret—

(I) the story of the relocation of Japanese Americans during World War II to the Minidoka Relocation Center and other centers across the United States;

(II) the living conditions of the relocation centers;

(III) the work performed by the internees at the relocation centers; and

(IV) the contributions to the United States military made by Japanese Americans who had been interned.

(ii) ORAL HISTORIES.—To the extent feasible, the collection of oral histories and testimonials from Japanese Americans who were confined shall be a part of the interpretive program at the Historic Site.

(iii) COORDINATION.—The Secretary shall coordinate the development of interpretive and educational materials and programs for the Historic Site with the Manzanar National Historic Site in the State of California.

(C) BAINBRIDGE ISLAND JAPANESE AMERICAN MEMORIAL.—The Bainbridge Island Japanese American Memorial shall be administered in accordance with subsection (b)(2).

(D) CONTINUED AGRICULTURAL USE.—In keeping with the historical use of the land following the decommission of the Minidoka Relocation Center, the Secretary may issue a special use permit or enter into a lease to allow agricultural uses within the Historic Site under appropriate terms and conditions, as determined by the Secretary.

(6) DISCLAIMER OF INTEREST IN LAND.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may issue to Jerome County, Idaho, a document of disclaimer of interest in land for the parcel identified as “Tract No. 2”

(i) in the final order of condemnation, for the case numbered 2479, filed on January 31, 1947, in the District Court of the United States, in and for the District of Idaho, Southern Division; and

(ii) on the Minidoka Map.

(B) PROCESS.—The Secretary shall issue the document of disclaimer of interest in land under subsection (a) in accordance with section 315(b) of Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1745(b)).

(C) EFFECT.—The issuance by the Secretary of the document of disclaimer of interest in land under subsection (a) shall have the same effect as a quit-claim deed issued by the United States.

(d) CONVEYANCE OF AMERICAN FALLS RESERVOIR DISTRICT NUMBER 2.—

(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

(A) AGREEMENT.—The term “Agreement” means Agreement No. 5-07-10-L1688 between the United States and the District, entitled “Agreement Between the United States and the American Falls Reservoir District No. 2 to Transfer Title to the Federally Owned Milner-Gooding Canal and Certain Property Rights, Title and Interest to the American Falls Reservoir District No. 2”.

(B) DISTRICT.—The term “District” means the American Falls Reservoir District No. 2, located in Jerome, Lincoln, and Gooding Counties, of the State.

(2) AUTHORITY TO CONVEY TITLE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—In accordance with all applicable law and the terms and conditions set forth in the Agreement, the Secretary may convey—

(i) to the District all right, title, and interest in and to the land and improvements de-

scribed in Appendix A of the Agreement, subject to valid existing rights;

(ii) to the city of Gooding, located in Gooding County, of the State, all right, title, and interest in and to the 5.0 acres of land and improvements described in Appendix D of the Agreement; and

(iii) to the Idaho Department of Fish and Game all right, title, and interest in and to the 39.72 acres of land and improvements described in Appendix D of the Agreement.

(B) COMPLIANCE WITH AGREEMENT.—All parties to the conveyance under subparagraph (A) shall comply with the terms and conditions of the Agreement, to the extent consistent with this section.

(3) COMPLIANCE WITH OTHER LAWS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—On conveyance of the land and improvements under paragraph (2)(A)(i), the District shall comply with all applicable Federal, State, and local laws (including regulations) in the operation of each facility transferred.

(B) APPLICABLE AUTHORITY.—Nothing in this subsection modifies or otherwise affects the applicability of Federal reclamation law (the Act of June 17, 1902 (32 Stat. 388, chapter 1093), and Acts supplemental to and amendatory of that Act (43 U.S.C. 371 et seq.)) to project water provided to the District.

(4) REVOCATION OF WITHDRAWALS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The portions of the Secretarial Orders dated March 18, 1908, October 7, 1908, September 29, 1919, October 22, 1925, March 29, 1927, July 23, 1927, and May 7, 1963, withdrawing the approximately 6,900 acres described in Appendix E of the Agreement for the purpose of the Gooding Division of the Minidoka Project, are revoked.

(B) MANAGEMENT OF WITHDRAWN LAND.—The Secretary, acting through the Director of the Bureau of Land Management, shall manage the withdrawn land described in subparagraph (A) subject to valid existing rights.

(5) LIABILITY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), upon completion of a conveyance under paragraph (2), the United States shall not be liable for damages of any kind for any injury arising out of an act, omission, or occurrence relating to the land (including any improvements to the land) conveyed under the conveyance.

(B) EXCEPTION.—Subparagraph (A) shall not apply to liability for damages resulting from an injury caused by any act of negligence committed by the United States (or by any officer, employee, or agent of the United States) before the date of completion of the conveyance.

(C) FEDERAL TORT CLAIMS ACT.—Nothing in this paragraph increases the liability of the United States beyond that provided in chapter 171 of title 28, United States Code.

(6) FUTURE BENEFITS.—

(A) RESPONSIBILITY OF THE DISTRICT.—After completion of the conveyance of land and improvements to the District under paragraph (2)(A)(i), and consistent with the Agreement, the District shall assume responsibility for all duties and costs associated with the operation, replacement, maintenance, enhancement, and betterment of the transferred land (including any improvements to the land).

(B) ELIGIBILITY FOR FEDERAL FUNDING.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (ii), the District shall not be eligible to receive Federal funding to assist in any activity described in subparagraph (A) relating to land and improvements transferred under paragraph (2)(A)(i).

(ii) EXCEPTION.—Clause (i) shall not apply to any funding that would be available to a similarly situated nonreclamation district, as determined by the Secretary.

(7) NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT.—Before completing any conveyance under this subsection, the Secretary shall complete all actions required under—

(A) the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.);

(B) the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.);

(C) the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.); and

(D) all other applicable laws (including regulations).

(8) PAYMENT.—

(A) FAIR MARKET VALUE REQUIREMENT.—As a condition of the conveyance under paragraph (2)(A)(i), the District shall pay the fair market value for the withdrawn lands to be acquired by the District, in accordance with the terms of the Agreement.

(B) GRANT FOR BUILDING REPLACEMENT.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, and in full satisfaction of the Federal obligation to the District for the replacement of the structure in existence on that date of enactment that is to be transferred to the National Park Service for inclusion in the Minidoka National Historic Site, the Secretary, acting through the Commissioner of Reclamation, shall provide to the District a grant in the amount of \$52,996, in accordance with the terms of the Agreement.

(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this section.

SEC. 314. ACADIA NATIONAL PARK IMPROVEMENT.

(a) EXTENSION OF LAND CONVEYANCE AUTHORITY.—Section 102(d) of Public Law 99-420 (16 U.S.C. 341 note) is amended by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

“(2) Federally owned property under jurisdiction of the Secretary referred to in paragraph (1) of this subsection shall be conveyed to the towns in which the property is located without encumbrance and without monetary consideration, except that no town shall be eligible to receive such lands unless lands within the Park boundary and owned by the town have been conveyed to the Secretary.”.

(b) EXTENSION OF ACADIA NATIONAL PARK ADVISORY COMMISSION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 103(f) of Public Law 99-420 (16 U.S.C. 341 note) is amended by striking “20” and inserting “40”.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by paragraph (1) shall take effect on September 25, 2006.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 106 of Public Law 99-420 (16 U.S.C. 341 note) is amended by adding the following:

“(c) ADDITIONAL FUNDING.—In addition to such sums as have been heretofore appropriated, there is hereby authorized \$10,000,000 for acquisition of lands and interests therein.”.

(d) INTERMODAL TRANSPORTATION CENTER.—Title I of Public Law 99-420 (16 U.S.C. 341 note) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“SEC. 108. INTERMODAL TRANSPORTATION CENTER.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may provide assistance in the planning, construction, and operation of an intermodal transportation center located outside of the boundary of the Park in the town of Trenton, Maine to improve the management, interpretation, and visitor enjoyment of the Park.

“(b) AGREEMENTS.—To carry out subsection (a), in administering the intermodal transportation center, the Secretary may enter into interagency agreements with other Federal agencies, and, notwithstanding chapter 63 of title 31, United States Code, cooperative agreements, under appropriate

terms and conditions, with State and local agencies, and nonprofit organizations—

“(1) to provide exhibits, interpretive services (including employing individuals to provide such services), and technical assistance;

“(2) to conduct activities that facilitate the dissemination of information relating to the Park and the Island Explorer transit system or any successor transit system;

“(3) to provide financial assistance for the construction of the intermodal transportation center in exchange for space in the center that is sufficient to interpret the Park; and

“(4) to assist with the operation and maintenance of the intermodal transportation center.

“(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary not more than 40 percent of the total cost necessary to carry out this section (including planning, design and construction of the intermodal transportation center).

“(2) OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary not more than 85 percent of the total cost necessary to maintain and operate the intermodal transportation center.”.

Subtitle C—Studies

SEC. 321. NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM SPECIAL RESOURCE STUDY, NEWTONIA CIVIL WAR BATTLEFIELDS, MISSOURI.

(a) SPECIAL RESOURCE STUDY.—The Secretary of the Interior shall conduct a special resource study relating to the First Battle of Newtonia in Newton County, Missouri, which occurred on September 30, 1862, and the Second Battle of Newtonia, which occurred on October 28, 1864, during the Missouri Expedition of Confederate General Sterling Price in September and October 1864.

(b) CONTENTS.—In conducting the study under subsection (a), the Secretary shall—

(1) evaluate the national significance of the Newtonia battlefields and their related sites;

(2) consider the findings and recommendations contained in the document entitled “Vision Plan for Newtonia Battlefield Preservation” and dated June 2004, which was prepared by the Newtonia Battlefields Protection Association;

(3) evaluate the suitability and feasibility of adding the battlefields and related sites as part of Wilson’s Creek National Battlefield or designating the battlefields and related sites as a unit of the National Park System;

(4) analyze the potential impact that the inclusion of the battlefields and related sites as part of Wilson’s Creek National Battlefield or their designation as a unit of the National Park System is likely to have on land within or bordering the battlefields and related sites that is privately owned at the time of the study is conducted;

(5) consider alternatives for preservation, protection, and interpretation of the battlefields and related sites by the National Park Service, other Federal, State, or local governmental entities, or private and nonprofit organizations; and

(6) identify cost estimates for any necessary acquisition, development, interpretation, operation, and maintenance associated with the alternatives referred to in paragraph (5).

(c) CRITERIA.—The criteria for the study of areas for potential inclusion in the National Park System contained in section 8 of Public Law 91-383 (16 U.S.C. 1a-5) shall apply to the study under subsection (a).

(d) TRANSMISSION TO CONGRESS.—Not later than three years after the date on which funds are first made available for the study under subsection (a), the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Natural Resources

of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report containing—

(1) the results of the study; and

(2) any conclusions and recommendations of the Secretary.

SEC. 322. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE STUDY REGARDING THE SOLDIERS’ MEMORIAL MILITARY MUSEUM.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds as follows:

(1) The Soldiers’ Memorial is a tribute to all veterans located in the greater St. Louis area, including Southern Illinois.

(2) The current annual budget for the memorial is \$185,000 and is paid for exclusively by the City of St. Louis.

(3) In 1923, the City of St. Louis voted to spend \$6,000,000 to purchase a memorial plaza and building dedicated to citizens of St. Louis who lost their lives in World War I.

(4) The purchase of the 7 block site exhausted the funds and no money remained to construct a monument.

(5) In 1933, Mayor Bernard F. Dickmann appealed to citizens and the city government to raise \$1,000,000 to construct a memorial building and general improvement of the plaza area and the construction of Soldiers’ Memorial began on October 21, 1935.

(6) On October 14, 1936, President Franklin D. Roosevelt officially dedicated the site.

(7) On Memorial Day in 1938, Mayor Dickmann opened the building to the public.

(b) STUDY.—The Secretary of the Interior shall carry out a study to determine the suitability and feasibility of designating the Soldiers’ Memorial Military Museum, located at 1315 Chestnut, St. Louis, Missouri, as a unit of the National Park System.

(c) STUDY PROCESS AND COMPLETION.—Section 8(c) of Public Law 91-383 (16 U.S.C. 1a-5(c)) shall apply to the conduct and completion of the study required by this section.

(d) REPORT.—The Secretary shall submit a report describing the results the study required by this section to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate.

SEC. 323. WOLF HOUSE STUDY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall complete a special resource study of the Wolf House located on Highway 5 in Norfolk, Arkansas, to determine—

(1) the suitability and feasibility of designating the Wolf House as a unit of the National Park System; and

(2) the methods and means for the protection and interpretation of the Wolf House by the National Park Service, other Federal, State, or local government entities or private or non-profit organizations.

(b) STUDY REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary shall conduct the study in accordance with section 8(c) of Public Law 91-383 (16 U.S.C. 1a-5).

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date on which funds are made available to carry out this section, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report containing—

(1) the results of the study; and

(2) any recommendations of the Secretary.

SEC. 324. SPACE SHUTTLE COLUMBIA STUDY.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) MEMORIAL.—The term “memorial” means a memorial to the Space Shuttle Columbia that is subject to the study in subsection (b).

(2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the National Park Service.

(b) STUDY OF SUITABILITY AND FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING MEMORIALS TO THE SPACE SHUTTLE COLUMBIA.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after the date on which funds are made available, the Secretary shall conduct a special resource study to determine the feasibility and suitability of establishing a memorial as a unit or units of the National Park System to the Space Shuttle Columbia on land in the State of Texas described in paragraph (2) on which large debris from the Shuttle was recovered.

(2) DESCRIPTION OF LAND.—The parcels of land referred to in paragraph (1) are—

(A) the parcel of land owned by the Fredonia Corporation, located at the southeast corner of the intersection of East Hospital Street and North Fredonia Street, Nacogdoches, Texas;

(B) the parcel of land owned by Temple Inland Inc., 10 acres of a 61-acre tract bounded by State Highway 83 and Bayou Bend Road, Hemphill, Texas;

(C) the parcel of land owned by the city of Lufkin, Texas, located at City Hall Park, 301 Charlton Street, Lufkin, Texas; and

(D) the parcel of land owned by San Augustine County, Texas, located at 1109 Oaklawn Street, San Augustine, Texas.

(3) ADDITIONAL SITES.—The Secretary may recommend to Congress additional sites in the State of Texas relating to the Space Shuttle Columbia for establishment as memorials to the Space Shuttle Columbia.

SEC. 325. CÉSAR E. CHÁVEZ STUDY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after the date on which funds are made available to carry out this section, the Secretary of the Interior (referred to in this section as the “Secretary”) shall complete a special resource study of sites in the State of Arizona, the State of California, and other States that are significant to the life of César E. Chávez and the farm labor movement in the western United States to determine—

(1) appropriate methods for preserving and interpreting the sites; and

(2) whether any of the sites meets the criteria for listing on the National Register of Historic Places or designation as a national historic landmark under—

(A) the Act of August 21, 1935 (16 U.S.C. 461 et seq.); or

(B) the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—In conducting the study under subsection (a), the Secretary shall—

(1) consider the criteria for the study of areas for potential inclusion in the National Park System under section 8(b)(2) of Public Law 91-383 (16 U.S.C. 1a-5(b)(2)); and

(2) consult with—

(A) the César E. Chávez Foundation;

(B) the United Farm Workers Union; and

(C) State and local historical associations and societies, including any State historic preservation offices in the State in which the site is located.

(c) REPORT.—On completion of the study, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report that describes—

(1) the findings of the study; and

(2) any recommendations of the Secretary.

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this section.

SEC. 326. TAUNTON, MASSACHUSETTS, SPECIAL RESOURCE STUDY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior (referred to in this section as the “Secretary”), in consultation with the appropriate State historic preservation officers, State historical societies, the city of Taunton, Massachusetts, and other appro-

priate organizations, shall conduct a special resources study regarding the suitability and feasibility of designating certain historic buildings and areas in Taunton, Massachusetts, as a unit of the National Park System. The study shall be conducted and completed in accordance with section 8(c) of Public Law 91-383 (16 U.S.C. 1a-5(c)) and shall include analysis, documentation, and determinations regarding whether the historic areas in Taunton—

(1) can be managed, curated, interpreted, restored, preserved, and presented as an organic whole under management by the National Park Service or under an alternative management structure;

(2) have an assemblage of natural, historic, and cultural resources that together represent distinctive aspects of American heritage worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation, and continuing use;

(3) reflect traditions, customs, beliefs, and historical events that are valuable parts of the national story;

(4) provide outstanding opportunities to conserve natural, historic, cultural, architectural, or scenic features;

(5) provide outstanding recreational and educational opportunities; and

(6) can be managed by the National Park Service in partnership with residents, business interests, nonprofit organizations, and State and local governments to develop a unit of the National Park System consistent with State and local economic activity.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 3 fiscal years after the date on which funds are first made available for this section, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report on the findings, conclusions, and recommendations of the study required under subsection (a).

(c) PRIVATE PROPERTY.—The recommendations in the report submitted pursuant to subsection (b) shall include discussion and consideration of the concerns expressed by private landowners with respect to designating certain structures referred to in this section as a unit of the National Park System.

SEC. 327. RIM OF THE VALLEY CORRIDOR STUDY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior (referred to in this section as the “Secretary”) shall complete a special resource study of the area known as the Rim of the Valley Corridor, generally including the mountains encircling the San Fernando, La Crescenta, Santa Clarita, Simi, and Conejo Valleys in California, to determine—

(1) the suitability and feasibility of designating all or a portion of the corridor as a unit of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area; and

(2) the methods and means for the protection and interpretation of this corridor by the National Park Service, other Federal, State, or local government entities or private or non-profit organizations.

(b) DOCUMENTATION.—In conducting the study authorized under subsection (a), the Secretary shall document—

(1) the process used to develop the existing Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area Fire Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (September 2005); and

(2) all activity conducted pursuant to the plan referred to in paragraph (1) designed to protect lives and property from wildfire.

(c) STUDY REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary shall conduct the study in accordance with section 8(c) of Public Law 91-383 (16 U.S.C. 1a-5).

(d) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date on which funds are made available

to carry out this title, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report containing—

(1) the results of the study; and

(2) any recommendations of the Secretary.

Subtitle D—Memorials, Commissions, and Museums

SEC. 331. COMMEMORATIVE WORK TO HONOR BRIGADIER GENERAL FRANCIS MARION AND HIS FAMILY.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds the following:

(1) Francis Marion was born in 1732 in St. John's Parish, Berkeley County, South Carolina. He married Mary Esther Videau on April 20th, 1786. Francis and Mary Esther Marion had no children, but raised a son of a relative as their own, and gave the child Francis Marion's name.

(2) Brigadier General Marion commanded the Williamsburg Militia Revolutionary force in South Carolina and was instrumental in delaying the advance of British forces by leading his troops in disrupting supply lines.

(3) Brigadier General Marion's tactics, which were unheard of in rules of warfare at the time, included lightning raids on British convoys, after which he and his forces would retreat into the swamps to avoid capture. British Lieutenant Colonel Tarleton stated that “as for this damned old swamp fox, the devil himself could not catch him”. Thus, the legend of the “Swamp Fox” was born.

(4) His victory at the Battle of Eutaw Springs in September of 1781 was officially recognized by Congress.

(5) Brigadier General Marion's troops are believed to be the first racially integrated force fighting for the United States, as his band was a mix of Whites, Blacks, both free and slave, and Native Americans.

(6) As a statesman, he represented his parish in the South Carolina senate as well as his State at the Constitutional Convention.

(7) Although the Congress has authorized the establishment of commemorative works on Federal lands in the District of Columbia honoring such celebrated Americans as George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and Abraham Lincoln, the National Capital has no comparable memorial to Brigadier General Francis Marion for his bravery and leadership during the Revolutionary War, without which the United States would not exist.

(8) Brigadier General Marion's legacy must live on. Since 1878, United States Reservation 18 has been officially referred to as Marion Park. Located between 4th and 6th Streets, S.E., at the intersection of E Street and South Carolina Avenue, S.E., in Washington, DC, the park lacks a formal commemoration to this South Carolina hero who was important to the initiation of the Nation's heritage.

(9) The time has come to correct this oversight so that future generations of Americans will know and understand the pre-eminent historical and lasting significance to the Nation of Brigadier General Marion's contributions. Such a South Carolina hero deserves to be given the proper recognition.

(b) AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH COMMEMORATIVE WORK.—The Marion Park Project, a committee of the Palmetto Conservation Foundation, may establish a commemorative work on Federal land in the District of Columbia and its environs to honor Brigadier General Francis Marion and his service.

(c) COMPLIANCE WITH STANDARDS FOR COMMEMORATIVE WORKS.—The commemorative work authorized by subsection (b) shall be established in accordance with chapter 89 of title 40, United States Code (commonly known as the “Commemorative Works Act”).

(d) **USE OF FEDERAL FUNDS PROHIBITED.**—Federal funds may not be used to pay any expense of the establishment of the commemorative work authorized by subsection (b). The Marion Park Project, a committee of the Palmetto Conservation Foundation, shall be solely responsible for acceptance of contributions for, and payment of the expenses of, the establishment of that commemorative work.

(e) **DEPOSIT OF EXCESS FUNDS.**—If, upon payment of all expenses of the establishment of the commemorative work authorized by subsection (b) (including the maintenance and preservation amount provided for in section 8906(b) of title 40, United States Code), or upon expiration of the authority for the commemorative work under chapter 89 of title 40, United States Code, there remains a balance of funds received for the establishment of that commemorative work, the Marion Park Project, a committee of the Palmetto Conservation Foundation, shall transmit the amount of the balance to the Secretary of the Treasury for deposit in the account provided for in section 8906(b)(1) of such title.

(f) **DEFINITIONS.**—For the purposes of this section, the terms “commemorative work” and “the District of Columbia and its environs” have the meanings given to such terms in section 8902(a) of title 40, United States Code.

SEC. 332. DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER MEMORIAL COMMISSION.

Section 8162 of the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2000 (Public Law 106-79; 113 Stat. 1274) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (j) and inserting the following:

“(j) **POWERS OF THE COMMISSION.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—

“(A) **POWERS.**—The Commission may—

“(i) make such expenditures for services and materials for the purpose of carrying out this section as the Commission considers advisable from funds appropriated or received as gifts for that purpose;

“(ii) solicit and accept contributions to be used in carrying out this section or to be used in connection with the construction or other expenses of the memorial;

“(iii) hold hearings and enter into contracts;

“(iv) enter into contracts for specialized or professional services as necessary to carry out this section; and

“(v) take such actions as are necessary to carry out this section.

“(B) **SPECIALIZED OR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES.**—Services under subparagraph (A)(iv) may be—

“(i) obtained without regard to the provisions of title 5, United States Code, including section 3109 of that title; and

“(ii) may be paid without regard to the provisions of title 5, United States Code, including chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of that title.

“(2) **GIFTS OF PROPERTY.**—The Commission may accept gifts of real or personal property to be used in carrying out this section, including to be used in connection with the construction or other expenses of the memorial.

“(3) **FEDERAL COOPERATION.**—At the request of the Commission, a Federal department or agency may provide any information or other assistance to the Commission that the head of the Federal department or agency determines to be appropriate.

“(4) **POWERS OF MEMBERS AND AGENTS.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—If authorized by the Commission, any member or agent of the Commission may take any action that the Commission is authorized to take under this section.

“(B) **ARCHITECT.**—The Commission may appoint an architect as an agent of the Commission to—

“(i) represent the Commission on various governmental source selection and planning boards on the selection of the firms that will design and construct the memorial; and

“(ii) perform other duties as designated by the Chairperson of the Commission.

“(C) **TREATMENT.**—An authorized member or agent of the Commission (including an individual appointed under subparagraph (B)) providing services to the Commission shall be considered an employee of the Federal Government in the performance of those services for the purposes of chapter 171 of title 28, United States Code, relating to tort claims.

“(5) **TRAVEL.**—Each member of the Commission shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for employees of agencies under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from their homes or regular places of business in the performance of services for the Commission.”;

(2) by redesignating subsection (o) as subsection (q); and

(3) by adding after subsection (n) the following:

“(o) **STAFF AND SUPPORT SERVICES.**—

“(1) **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.**—There shall be an Executive Director appointed by the Commission to be paid at a rate not to exceed the maximum rate of basic pay for level IV of the Executive Schedule.

“(2) **STAFF.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The staff of the Commission may be appointed and terminated without regard to the provisions of title 5, United States Code, governing appointments in the competitive service, and may be paid without regard to the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of that title, relating to classification and General Schedule pay rates, except that an individual appointed under this paragraph may not receive pay in excess of the maximum rate of basic pay for GS-15 of the General Schedule.

“(B) **SENIOR STAFF.**—Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), not more than 3 staff employees of the Commission (in addition to the Executive Director) may be paid at a rate not to exceed the maximum rate of basic pay for level IV of the Executive Schedule.

“(3) **STAFF OF FEDERAL AGENCIES.**—On request of the Commission, the head of any Federal department or agency may detail any of the personnel of the department or agency to the Commission to assist the Commission to carry out its duties under this section.

“(4) **FEDERAL SUPPORT.**—The Commission shall obtain administrative and support services from the General Services Administration on a reimbursable basis. The Commission may use all contracts, schedules, and acquisition vehicles allowed to external clients through the General Services Administration.

“(5) **COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.**—The Commission may enter into cooperative agreements with Federal agencies, State, local, tribal and international governments, and private interests and organizations which will further the goals and purposes of this section.

“(6) **TEMPORARY, INTERMITTENT, AND PART-TIME SERVICES.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Commission may obtain temporary, intermittent, and part-time services under section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, at rates not to exceed the maximum annual rate of basic pay payable under section 5376 of that title.

“(B) **NON-APPLICABILITY TO CERTAIN SERVICES.**—This paragraph shall not apply to services under subsection (j)(1)(A)(iv).

“(7) **VOLUNTEER SERVICES.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding section 1342 of title 31, United States Code, the Commission may accept and utilize the services of volunteers serving without compensation.

“(B) **REIMBURSEMENT.**—The Commission may reimburse such volunteers for local travel and office supplies, and for other travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, as authorized by section 5703 of title 5, United States Code.

“(C) **LIABILITY.**—

“(i) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to clause (ii), a volunteer described in subparagraph (A) shall be considered to be a volunteer for purposes of the Volunteer Protection Act of 1997 (42 U.S.C. 14501 et seq.).

“(ii) **EXCEPTION.**—Section 4(d) of the Volunteer Protection Act of 1997 (42 U.S.C. 14503(d)) shall not apply for purposes of a claim against a volunteer described in subparagraph (A).

“(p) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as necessary to carry out this section.”.

SEC. 333. COMMISSION TO STUDY THE POTENTIAL CREATION OF A NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN LATINO.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMISSION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—There is established the Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Museum of the American Latino (hereafter in this section referred to as the “Commission”).

(2) **MEMBERSHIP.**—The Commission shall consist of 23 members appointed not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act as follows:

(A) The President shall appoint 7 voting members.

(B) The Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, the Majority Leader of the Senate, and the Minority Leader of the Senate shall each appoint 3 voting members.

(C) In addition to the members appointed under subparagraph (B), the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, the Majority Leader of the Senate, and the Minority Leader of the Senate shall each appoint 1 nonvoting member.

(3) **QUALIFICATIONS.**—Members of the Commission shall be chosen from among individuals, or representatives of institutions or entities, who possess either—

(A) a demonstrated commitment to the research, study, or promotion of American Latino life, art, history, political or economic status, or culture, together with—

(i) expertise in museum administration;

(ii) expertise in fundraising for nonprofit or cultural institutions;

(iii) experience in the study and teaching of Latino culture and history at the post-secondary level;

(iv) experience in studying the issue of the Smithsonian Institution's representation of American Latino art, life, history, and culture; or

(v) extensive experience in public or elected service; or

(B) experience in the administration of, or the planning for the establishment of, museums devoted to the study and promotion of the role of ethnic, racial, or cultural groups in American history.

(b) **FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMISSION.**—

(1) **PLAN OF ACTION FOR ESTABLISHMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF MUSEUM.**—The Commission shall submit a report to the President and the Congress containing its recommendations with respect to a plan of action for the

establishment and maintenance of a National Museum of the American Latino in Washington, DC (hereafter in this section referred to as the "Museum").

(2) **FUNDRAISING PLAN.**—The Commission shall develop a fundraising plan for supporting the creation and maintenance of the Museum through contributions by the American people, and a separate plan on fundraising by the American Latino community.

(3) **REPORT ON ISSUES.**—The Commission shall examine (in consultation with the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution), and submit a report to the President and the Congress on, the following issues:

(A) The availability and cost of collections to be acquired and housed in the Museum.

(B) The impact of the Museum on regional Hispanic- and Latino-related museums.

(C) Possible locations for the Museum in Washington, DC and its environs, to be considered in consultation with the National Capital Planning Commission and the Commission of Fine Arts, the Department of the Interior and Smithsonian Institution.

(D) Whether the Museum should be located within the Smithsonian Institution.

(E) The governance and organizational structure from which the Museum should operate.

(F) How to engage the American Latino community in the development and design of the Museum.

(G) The cost of constructing, operating, and maintaining the Museum.

(4) **LEGISLATION TO CARRY OUT PLAN OF ACTION.**—Based on the recommendations contained in the report submitted under paragraph (1) and the report submitted under paragraph (3), the Commission shall submit for consideration to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives, the Committee on House Administration of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate, the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate, and the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate recommendations for a legislative plan of action to create and construct the Museum.

(5) **NATIONAL CONFERENCE.**—In carrying out its functions under this section, the Commission may convene a national conference on the Museum, comprised of individuals committed to the advancement of American Latino life, art, history, and culture, not later than 18 months after the commission members are selected.

(c) **ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.**—

(1) **FACILITIES AND SUPPORT OF DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR.**—The Department of the Interior shall provide from funds appropriated for this purpose administrative services, facilities, and funds necessary for the performance of the Commission's functions. These funds shall be made available prior to any meetings of the Commission.

(2) **COMPENSATION.**—Each member of the Commission who is not an officer or employee of the Federal Government may receive compensation for each day on which the member is engaged in the work of the Commission, at a daily rate to be determined by the Secretary of the Interior.

(3) **TRAVEL EXPENSES.**—Each member shall be entitled to travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in accordance with applicable provisions under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code.

(4) **FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT.**—The Commission is not subject to the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

(d) **DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF REPORTS; TERMINATION.**—

(1) **DEADLINE.**—The Commission shall submit final versions of the reports and plans required under subsection (b) not later than 24 months after the date of the Commission's first meeting.

(2) **TERMINATION.**—The Commission shall terminate not later than 30 days after submitting the final versions of reports and plans pursuant to paragraph (1).

(e) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There are authorized to be appropriated for carrying out the activities of the Commission \$2,100,000 for the first fiscal year beginning after the date of enactment of this Act and \$1,100,000 for the second fiscal year beginning after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 334. HUDSON-FULTON-CHAMPLAIN QUADRICENTENNIAL COMMEMORATION COMMISSION.

(a) **COORDINATION.**—Each commission established under this section shall coordinate with the other respective commission established under this section to ensure that commemorations of Henry Hudson, Robert Fulton, and Samuel de Champlain are—

(1) consistent with the plans and programs of the commemorative commissions established by the States of New York and Vermont; and

(2) well-organized and successful.

(b) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **CHAMPLAIN COMMEMORATION.**—The term "Champlain commemoration" means the commemoration of the 400th anniversary of the voyage of Samuel de Champlain.

(2) **CHAMPLAIN COMMISSION.**—The term "Champlain Commission" means the Champlain Quadricentennial Commemoration Commission established by subsection (c)(1).

(3) **COMMISSION.**—The term "Commission" means each of the Champlain Commission and the Hudson-Fulton Commission.

(4) **HUDSON-FULTON COMMEMORATION.**—The term "Hudson-Fulton commemoration" means the commemoration of—

(A) the 200th anniversary of the voyage of Robert Fulton in the Clermont; and

(B) the 400th anniversary of the voyage of Henry Hudson in the Half Moon.

(5) **HUDSON-FULTON COMMISSION.**—The term "Hudson-Fulton Commission" means the Hudson-Fulton 400th Commemoration Commission established by subsection (d)(1).

(6) **LAKE CHAMPLAIN BASIN PROGRAM.**—The term "Lake Champlain Basin Program" means the partnership established by section 120 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1270) between the States of New York and Vermont and Federal agencies to carry out the Lake Champlain management plan entitled, "Opportunities for Action: An Evolving Plan for the Lake Champlain Basin".

(7) **SECRETARY.**—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

(c) **ESTABLISHMENT OF CHAMPLAIN COMMISSION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—There is established a commission to be known as the "Champlain Quadricentennial Commemoration Commission".

(2) **MEMBERSHIP.**—

(A) **COMPOSITION.**—The Champlain Commission shall be composed of 10 members, of whom—

(i) 1 member shall be the Director of the National Park Service (or a designee);

(ii) 4 members shall be appointed by the Secretary from among individuals who, on the date of enactment of this Act, are—

(I) serving as members of the Hudson-Fulton-Champlain Quadricentennial Commission of the State of New York; and

(II) residents of Champlain Valley, New York;

(iii) 4 members shall be appointed by the Secretary from among individuals who, on the date of enactment of this Act, are—

(I) serving as members of the Lake Champlain Quadricentennial Commission of the State of Vermont; and

(II) residents of the State of Vermont; and

(iv) 1 member shall be appointed by the Secretary, and shall be an individual who has—

(I) an interest in, support for, and expertise appropriate with respect to, the Champlain commemoration; and

(II) knowledge relating to the history of the Champlain Valley.

(B) **TERM; VACANCIES.**—

(i) **TERM.**—A member of the Champlain Commission shall be appointed for the life of the Champlain Commission.

(ii) **VACANCIES.**—A vacancy on the Champlain Commission shall be filled in the same manner in which the original appointment was made.

(3) **DUTIES.**—The Champlain Commission shall—

(A) plan, develop, and execute programs and activities appropriate to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the voyage of Samuel de Champlain, the first European to discover and explore Lake Champlain;

(B) facilitate activities relating to the Champlain Quadricentennial throughout the United States;

(C) coordinate the activities of the Champlain Commission with—

(i) State commemoration commissions;

(ii) appropriate Federal agencies;

(iii) the Lake Champlain Basin Program;

(iv) the National Endowment for the Arts; and

(v) the Smithsonian Institution;

(D) encourage civic, patriotic, historical, educational, artistic, religious, economic, and other organizations throughout the United States to organize and participate in anniversary activities to expand the understanding and appreciation of the significance of the voyage of Samuel de Champlain;

(E) provide technical assistance to States, localities, and nonprofit organizations to further the Champlain commemoration;

(F) coordinate and facilitate for the public scholarly research on, publication about, and interpretation of, the voyage of Samuel de Champlain;

(G) ensure that the Champlain 2009 anniversary provides a lasting legacy and a long-term public benefit by assisting in the development of appropriate programs and facilities;

(H) help ensure that the observances of the voyage of Samuel de Champlain are inclusive and appropriately recognize the experiences and heritage of all people present when Samuel de Champlain arrived in the Champlain Valley; and

(I) consult and coordinate with the Lake Champlain Basin Program and other relevant organizations to plan and develop programs and activities to commemorate the voyage of Samuel de Champlain.

(d) **ESTABLISHMENT OF HUDSON-FULTON COMMISSION.**—

(1) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There is established a commission to be known as the "Hudson-Fulton 400th Commemoration Commission".

(2) **MEMBERSHIP.**—

(A) **COMPOSITION.**—The Hudson-Fulton Commission shall be composed of 15 members, of whom—

(i) 1 member shall be the Director of the National Park Service (or a designee);

(ii) 1 member shall be appointed by the Secretary, after considering the recommendation of the Governor of the State of New York;

(iii) 6 members shall be appointed by the Secretary, after considering the recommendations of the Members of the House of Representatives whose districts encompass the Hudson River Valley;

(iv) 2 members shall be appointed by the Secretary, after considering the recommendations of the Members of the Senate from the State of New York;

(v) 2 members shall be—

(I) appointed by the Secretary; and

(II) individuals who have an interest in, support for, and expertise appropriate with respect to, the Hudson-Fulton commemoration, of whom—

(aa) 1 member shall be an individual with expertise in the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area; and

(bb) 1 member shall be an individual with expertise in the State of New York, as it relates to the Hudson-Fulton commemoration;

(vi) 1 member shall be the Chairperson of a commemorative commission formed by the State of New York (or the designee of the Chairperson); and

(vii) 2 members shall be appointed by the Secretary, after—

(I) considering the recommendation of the Mayor of the city of New York; and

(II) consulting the Members of the House of Representatives whose districts encompass the city of New York.

(B) TERM; VACANCIES.—

(i) TERM.—A member of the Hudson-Fulton Commission shall be appointed for the life of the Hudson-Fulton Commission.

(ii) VACANCIES.—A vacancy on the Hudson-Fulton Commission shall be filled in the same manner in which the original appointment was made.

(3) DUTIES.—The Hudson-Fulton Commission shall—

(A) plan, develop, and execute programs and activities appropriate to commemorate—

(i) the 400th anniversary of the voyage of Henry Hudson, the first European to sail up the Hudson River; and

(ii) the 200th anniversary of the voyage of Robert Fulton, the first person to use steam navigation on a commercial basis;

(B) facilitate activities relating to the Hudson-Fulton-Champlain Quadricentennial throughout the United States;

(C) coordinate the activities of the Hudson-Fulton Commission with—

(i) State commemoration commissions;

(ii) appropriate Federal agencies;

(iii) the National Park Service, with respect to the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area;

(iv) the American Heritage Rivers Initiative Interagency Committee established by Executive Order 13061, dated September 11, 1997;

(v) the National Endowment for the Humanities;

(vi) the National Endowment for the Arts; and

(vii) the Smithsonian Institution;

(D) encourage civic, patriotic, historical, educational, artistic, religious, economic, and other organizations throughout the United States to organize and participate in anniversary activities to expand the understanding and appreciation of the significance of the voyages of Henry Hudson and Robert Fulton;

(E) provide technical assistance to States, localities, and nonprofit organizations to further the Hudson-Fulton commemoration;

(F) coordinate and facilitate for the public scholarly research on, publication about, and interpretation of, the voyages of Henry Hudson and Robert Fulton;

(G) ensure that the Hudson-Fulton 2009 commemorations provide a lasting legacy and long-term public benefit by assisting in

the development of appropriate programs and facilities; and

(H) help ensure that the observances of Henry Hudson are inclusive and appropriately recognize the experiences and heritage of all people present when Henry Hudson sailed the Hudson River.

(e) COMMISSION MEETINGS.—

(1) INITIAL MEETING.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which all members of a commission established under this section have been appointed, the applicable Commission shall hold an initial meeting.

(2) MEETINGS.—A commission established under this section shall meet—

(A) at least twice each year; or

(B) at the call of the Chairperson or the majority of the members of the Commission.

(3) QUORUM.—A majority of voting members shall constitute a quorum, but a lesser number may hold meetings.

(4) CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON.—

(A) ELECTION.—The Commission shall elect the Chairperson and the Vice Chairperson of the Commission on an annual basis.

(B) ABSENCE OF THE CHAIRPERSON.—The Vice Chairperson shall serve as the Chairperson in the absence of the Chairperson.

(5) VOTING.—A commission established under this section shall act only on an affirmative vote of a majority of the voting members of the applicable Commission.

(f) COMMISSION POWERS.—

(1) GIFTS.—The Commission may solicit, accept, use, and dispose of gifts, bequests, or devises of money or other property for aiding or facilitating the work of the Commission.

(2) APPOINTMENT OF ADVISORY COMMITTEES.—The Commission may appoint such advisory committees as the Commission determines to be necessary to carry out this section.

(3) AUTHORIZATION OF ACTION.—The Commission may authorize any member or employee of the Commission to take any action that the Commission is authorized to take under this section.

(4) PROCUREMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Commission may procure supplies, services, and property, and make or enter into contracts, leases, or other legal agreements, to carry out this section (except that a contract, lease, or other legal agreement made or entered into by the Commission shall not extend beyond the date of termination of the Commission).

(B) LIMITATION.—The Commission may not purchase real property.

(5) POSTAL SERVICES.—The Commission may use the United States mails in the same manner and under the same conditions as other agencies of the Federal Government.

(6) GRANTS.—

(A) CHAMPLAIN COMMISSION.—The Champlain Commission may make grants in amounts not to exceed \$20,000—

(i) to communities, nonprofit organizations, and State commemorative commissions to develop programs to assist in the Champlain commemoration; and

(ii) to research and scholarly organizations to research, publish, or distribute information relating to the early history of the voyage of Samuel de Champlain.

(B) HUDSON-FULTON COMMISSION.—The Hudson-Fulton Commission may make grants in amounts not to exceed \$20,000—

(i) to communities, nonprofit organizations, and State commemorative commissions to develop programs to assist in the Hudson-Fulton commemoration; and

(ii) to research and scholarly organizations to research, publish, or distribute information relating to the early history of the voyages of Henry Hudson and Robert Fulton.

(7) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Commission shall provide technical assistance to States, localities, and nonprofit organiza-

tions to further the Champlain commemoration and Hudson-Fulton commemoration, as applicable.

(8) COORDINATION AND CONSULTATION WITH LAKE CHAMPLAIN BASIN PROGRAM.—The Champlain Commission shall coordinate and consult with the Lake Champlain Basin Program to provide grants and technical assistance under paragraphs (6)(A) and (7) for the development of activities commemorating the voyage of Samuel de Champlain.

(g) COMMISSION PERSONNEL MATTERS.—

(1) COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), a member of the Commission shall serve without compensation.

(B) FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.—A member of the Commission who is an officer or employee of the Federal Government shall serve without compensation in addition to the compensation received for the services of the member as an officer or employee of the Federal Government.

(2) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—A member of the Commission shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for an employee of an agency under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from the home or regular place of business of the member in the performance of the duties of the Commission.

(3) STAFF.—The Commission may, without regard to the civil service laws (including regulations), appoint and terminate an Executive Director and such other additional personnel as are necessary to enable the Commission to perform the duties of the Commission.

(4) COMPENSATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the Commission may fix the compensation of the Executive Director and other personnel without regard to the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of title 5, United States Code, relating to classification of positions and General Schedule pay rates.

(B) MAXIMUM RATE OF PAY.—The rate of pay for the Executive Director and other personnel shall not exceed the rate payable for level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of title 5, United States Code.

(5) DETAIL OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.—

(A) FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—At the request of the Commission, the head of any Federal agency may detail, on a reimbursable or nonreimbursable basis, any of the personnel of the agency to the Commission to assist the Commission in carrying out the duties of the Commission under this section.

(ii) CIVIL SERVICE STATUS.—The detail of an employee under clause (i) shall be without interruption or loss of civil service status or privilege.

(B) STATE EMPLOYEES.—The Commission may—

(i) accept the services of personnel detailed from the State of New York or the State of Vermont, as appropriate (including subdivisions of the States); and

(ii) reimburse the State of New York or the State of Vermont for services of detailed personnel.

(C) LAKE CHAMPLAIN BASIN PROGRAM EMPLOYEES.—The Champlain Commission may—

(i) accept the services of personnel detailed from the Lake Champlain Basin Program; and

(ii) reimburse the Lake Champlain Basin Program for services of detailed personnel.

(D) PROCUREMENT OF TEMPORARY AND INTERMITTENT SERVICES.—The Commission may procure temporary and intermittent services in accordance with section 3109(b) of

title 5, United States Code, at rates for individuals that do not exceed the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay prescribed for level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of that title.

(6) **VOLUNTEER AND UNCOMPENSATED SERVICES.**—Notwithstanding section 1342 of title 31, United States Code, the Commission may accept and use voluntary and uncompensated services as the Commission determines necessary.

(7) **SUPPORT SERVICES.**—The Secretary shall provide to the Commission, on a reimbursable basis, such administrative support services as the Commission may request.

(8) **FACA NONAPPLICABILITY.**—Section 14(b) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to the Commission.

(h) **REPORTS.**—Not later than September 30, 2010, the Commission shall submit to the Secretary a report that contains—

(1) a summary of the activities of the Commission;

(2) a final accounting of funds received and expended by the Commission; and

(3) the findings and recommendations of the Commission.

(i) **TERMINATION OF COMMISSIONS.**—

(1) **DATE OF TERMINATION.**—The Commission shall terminate on December 31, 2010.

(2) **TRANSFER OF DOCUMENTS AND MATERIALS.**—Before the date of termination specified in paragraph (1), the Commission shall transfer all of its documents and materials of the Commission to the National Archives or another appropriate Federal entity.

(j) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2011—

(A) \$500,000 to the Champlain Commission; and

(B) \$500,000 to the Hudson-Fulton Commission.

(2) **AVAILABILITY.**—Amounts made available under paragraph (1) shall remain available until expended.

SEC. 335. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING THE DESIGNATION OF THE MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN QUILTER'S SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES.

(a) **FINDINGS.**—Congress finds that—

(1) the Museum of the American Quilter's Society is the largest quilt museum in the world, with a total of 13,400 square feet of exhibition space and more than 150 quilts exhibited year-round in its 3 galleries;

(2) the mission of the Museum is to educate the local, national, and international public about the art, history, and heritage of quilting;

(3) quilts in the Museum's permanent collection are made by quilters from 44 of the 50 States and many foreign countries;

(4) the Museum, centrally located in Paducah, Kentucky, and open to the public year-round, averages 40,000 visitors per year;

(5) individuals from all 50 States and from more than 25 foreign countries have visited the Museum;

(6) the Museum's Friends, an organization dedicated to supporting and sustaining the Museum, also has members in all 50 States, with 84 percent of members living more than 60 miles from the Museum;

(7) many members of the Museum's Friends have supported the Museum annually since the Museum began in 1991;

(8) quilts exhibited in the Museum are representative of the Nation and its cultures thanks to the wide diversity of themes and topics, quilts, and quiltmakers; and

(9) the Museum of the American Quilter's Society has national significance and support.

(b) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that the Museum of the American

Quilter's Society, located at 215 Jefferson Street, Paducah, Kentucky, should be designated as the "National Quilt Museum of the United States".

SEC. 336. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING THE DESIGNATION OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF WILDLIFE ART OF THE UNITED STATES.

(a) **FINDINGS.**—Congress finds that—

(1) the National Museum of Wildlife Art in Jackson, Wyoming, is devoted to inspiring global recognition of fine art related to nature and wildlife;

(2) the National Museum of Wildlife Art is an excellent example of a thematic museum that strives to unify the humanities and sciences into a coherent body of knowledge through art;

(3) the National Museum of Wildlife Art, which was founded in 1987 with a private gift of a collection of art, has grown in stature and importance and is recognized today as the world's premier museum of wildlife art;

(4) the National Museum of Wildlife Art is the only public museum in the United States with the mission of enriching and inspiring public appreciation and knowledge of fine art, while exploring the relationship between humanity and nature by collecting fine art focused on wildlife;

(5) the National Museum of Wildlife Art is housed in an architecturally significant and award-winning 51,000-square foot facility that overlooks the 28,000-acre National Elk Refuge and is adjacent to the Grand Teton National Park;

(6) the National Museum of Wildlife Art is accredited with the American Association of Museums, continues to grow in national recognition and importance with members from every State, and has a Board of Trustees and a National Advisory Board composed of major benefactors and leaders in the arts and sciences from throughout the United States;

(7) the permanent collection of the National Museum of Wildlife Art has grown to more than 3,000 works by important historic American artists including Edward Hicks, Anna Hyatt Huntington, Charles M. Russell, William Merritt Chase, and Alexander Calder, and contemporary American artists, including Steve Kestrel, Bart Walter, Nancy Howe, John Nieto, and Jamie Wyeth;

(8) the National Museum of Wildlife Art is a destination attraction in the Western United States with annual attendance of 92,000 visitors from all over the world and an award-winning website that receives more than 10,000 visits per week;

(9) the National Museum of Wildlife Art seeks to educate a diverse audience through collecting fine art focused on wildlife, presenting exceptional exhibitions, providing community, regional, national, and international outreach, and presenting extensive educational programming for adults and children; and

(10) a great opportunity exists to use the invaluable resources of the National Museum of Wildlife Art to teach the schoolchildren of the United States, through onsite visits, traveling exhibits, classroom curriculum, online distance learning, and other educational initiatives.

(b) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that the National Museum of Wildlife Art, located at 2820 Rungius Road, Jackson, Wyoming, should be designated as the "National Museum of Wildlife Art of the United States".

SEC. 337. REDESIGNATION OF ELLIS ISLAND LIBRARY.

(a) **REDESIGNATION.**—The Ellis Island Library on the third floor of the Ellis Island Immigration Museum, located on Ellis Island in New York Harbor, shall be known and redesignated as the "Bob Hope Memorial Library".

(b) **REFERENCES.**—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the Ellis Island Library on the third floor of the Ellis Island Immigration Museum referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Bob Hope Memorial Library".

Subtitle E—Trails and Rivers

SEC. 341. AUTHORIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION OF STAR-SPANGLED BANNER NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL.

Section 5(a) of the National Trails System Act (16 U.S.C. 1244(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(26) **STAR-SPANGLED BANNER NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL.**—

"(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail, a trail consisting of water and overland routes totaling approximately 290 miles, extending from Tangier Island, Virginia, through southern Maryland, the District of Columbia, and northern Virginia, in the Chesapeake Bay, Patuxent River, Potomac River, and north to the Patapsco River, and Baltimore, Maryland, commemorating the Chesapeake Campaign of the War of 1812 (including the British invasion of Washington, District of Columbia, and its associated feints, and the Battle of Baltimore in summer 1814), as generally depicted on the map titled 'Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail', numbered T02/80,000, and dated June 2007.

"(B) **MAP.**—The map referred to in subparagraph (A) shall be maintained on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the National Park Service.

"(C) **ADMINISTRATION.**—Subject to subparagraph (E)(ii), the trail shall be administered by the Secretary of the Interior.

"(D) **LAND ACQUISITION.**—No land or interest in land outside the exterior boundaries of any federally administered area may be acquired by the United States for the trail except with the consent of the owner of the land or interest in land.

"(E) **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.**—The Secretary of the Interior shall—

"(i) encourage communities, owners of land along the trail, and volunteer trail groups to participate in the planning, development, and maintenance of the trail; and

"(ii) consult with other affected landowners and Federal, State, and local agencies in the administration of the trail.

"(F) **INTERPRETATION AND ASSISTANCE.**—Subject to the availability of appropriations, the Secretary of the Interior may provide, to State and local governments and nonprofit organizations, interpretive programs and services and technical assistance for use in—

"(i) carrying out preservation and development of the trail; and

"(ii) providing education relating to the War of 1812 along the trail."

SEC. 342. LAND CONVEYANCE, LEWIS AND CLARK NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL, NEBRASKA.

(a) **CONVEYANCE AUTHORIZED.**—The Secretary of the Interior may convey, without consideration, to the Missouri River Basin Lewis and Clark Interpretive Trail and Visitor Center Foundation, Inc. (a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization with operational headquarters at 100 Valmont Drive, Nebraska City, Nebraska 68410), all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the federally owned land under jurisdiction of the Secretary consisting of 2 parcels as generally depicted on the map titled "Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail", numbered 648/80,002, and dated March 2006.

(b) **SURVEY; CONVEYANCE COST.**—The exact acreage and legal description of the land to be conveyed under subsection (a) shall be determined by a survey satisfactory to the Secretary. The cost of the survey and all other

costs incurred by the Secretary to convey the land shall be borne by the Missouri River Basin Lewis and Clark Interpretive Trail and Visitor Center Foundation, Inc.

(c) **CONDITION OF CONVEYANCE, USE OF CONVEYED LAND.**—The conveyance authorized under subsection (a) shall be subject to the condition that the Missouri River Basin Lewis and Clark Interpretive Trail and Visitor Center Foundation, Inc. use the conveyed land as an historic site and interpretive center for the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail.

(d) **DISCONTINUANCE OF USE.**—If Missouri River Basin Lewis and Clark Interpretive Trail and Visitor Center Foundation, Inc. determines to discontinue use of the land conveyed under subsection (a) as an historic site and interpretive center for the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail, the Missouri River Basin Lewis and Clark Interpretive Trail and Visitor Center Foundation, Inc. shall convey lands back to the Secretary without consideration.

(e) **ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS.**—The Secretary may require such additional terms and conditions in connection with the conveyance under subsection (a) or the conveyance, if any, under subsection (d) as the Secretary considers appropriate to protect the interests of the United States. Through a written agreement with the Foundation, the National Park Service shall ensure that the operation of the land conveyed under subsection (a) is in accordance with National Park Service standards for preservation, maintenance, and interpretation.

(f) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—To assist with the operation of the historic site and interpretive center, there is authorized to be appropriated \$150,000 per year for a period not to exceed 10 years.

SEC. 343. LEWIS AND CLARK NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL EXTENSION.

(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **EASTERN LEGACY SITES.**—The term “Eastern Legacy sites” means the sites associated with the preparation or return phases of the Lewis and Clark expedition, commonly known as the “Eastern Legacy”, including sites in Virginia, the District of Columbia, Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee, Indiana, Missouri, and Illinois. This includes the routes followed by Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, whether independently or together.

(2) **TRAIL.**—The term “Trail” means the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail designated by section 5(a)(6) of the National Trails System Act (16 U.S.C. 1244(a)(6)).

(b) **SPECIAL RESOURCE STUDY.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall complete a special resource study of the Eastern Legacy sites to determine—

(A) the suitability and feasibility of adding these sites to the Trail; and

(B) the methods and means for the protection and interpretation of these sites by the National Park Service, other Federal, State, or local government entities or private or non-profit organizations.

(2) **STUDY REQUIREMENTS.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall conduct the study in accordance with section 5(b) of the National Trails System Act (16 U.S.C. 1244(b)).

(B) **IMPACT ON TOURISM.**—In conducting the study, the Secretary shall analyze the potential impact that the inclusion of the Eastern Legacy sites is likely to have on tourist visitation to the western portion of the trail.

(c) **REPORT.**—Not later than 3 years after the date on which funds are made available to carry out this section, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report containing—

(1) the results of the study; and

(2) any recommendations of the Secretary.

SEC. 344. WILD AND SCENIC RIVER DESIGNATION, EIGHTMILE RIVER, CONNECTICUT.

(a) **FINDINGS.**—Congress finds the following:

(1) The Eightmile River Wild and Scenic River Study Act of 2001 (Public Law 107-65; 115 Stat. 484) authorized the study of the Eightmile River in the State of Connecticut from its headwaters downstream to its confluence with the Connecticut River for potential inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

(2) The segments of the Eightmile River covered by the study are in a free-flowing condition, and the outstanding resource values of the river segments include the cultural landscape, water quality, watershed hydrology, unique species and natural communities, geology, and watershed ecosystem.

(3) The Eightmile River Wild and Scenic Study Committee has determined that—

(A) the outstanding resource values of these river segments depend on sustaining the integrity and quality of the Eightmile River watershed;

(B) these resource values are manifest within the entire watershed; and

(C) the watershed as a whole, including its protection, is itself intrinsically important to this designation.

(4) The Eightmile River Wild and Scenic Study Committee took a watershed approach in studying and recommending management options for the river segments and the Eightmile River watershed as a whole.

(5) During the study, the Eightmile River Wild and Scenic Study Committee, with assistance from the National Park Service, prepared a comprehensive management plan for the Eightmile River watershed, dated December 8, 2005 (in this section referred to as the “Eightmile River Watershed Management Plan”), which establishes objectives, standards, and action programs that will ensure long-term protection of the outstanding values of the river and compatible management of the land and water resources of the Eightmile River and its watershed, without Federal management of affected lands not owned by the United States.

(6) The Eightmile River Wild and Scenic Study Committee voted in favor of inclusion of the Eightmile River in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System and included this recommendation as an integral part of the Eightmile River Watershed Management Plan.

(7) The residents of the towns lying along the Eightmile River and comprising most of its watershed (Salem, East Haddam, and Lyme, Connecticut), as well as the Boards of Selectmen and Land Use Commissions of these towns, voted to endorse the Eightmile River Watershed Management Plan and to seek designation of the river as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

(8) The State of Connecticut General Assembly enacted Public Act 05-18 to endorse the Eightmile River Watershed Management Plan and to seek designation of the river as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

(b) **DESIGNATION.**—Section 3(a) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1274(a)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (167) (relating to the Musconetcong River, New Jersey) as paragraph (169);

(2) by designating the undesignated paragraph relating to the White Salmon River, Washington, as paragraph (167);

(3) by designating the undesignated paragraph relating to the Black Butte River, California, as paragraph (168); and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

“(170) **EIGHTMILE RIVER, CONNECTICUT.**—Segments of the main stem and specified tributaries of the Eightmile River in the State of Connecticut, totaling approximately 25.3 miles, to be administered by the Secretary of the Interior as follows:

“(A) The entire 10.8-mile segment of the main stem, starting at its confluence with Lake Hayward Brook to its confluence with the Connecticut River at the mouth of Hamburg Cove, as a scenic river.

“(B) The 8.0-mile segment of the East Branch of the Eightmile River starting at Witch Meadow Road to its confluence with the main stem of the Eightmile River, as a scenic river.

“(C) The 3.9-mile segment of Harris Brook starting with the confluence of an unnamed stream lying 0.74 miles due east of the intersection of Hartford Road (State Route 85) and Round Hill Road to its confluence with the East Branch of the Eightmile River, as a scenic river.

“(D) The 1.9-mile segment of Beaver Brook starting at its confluence with Cedar Pond Brook to its confluence with the main stem of the Eightmile River, as a scenic river.

“(E) The 0.7-mile segment of Falls Brook from its confluence with Tisdale Brook to its confluence with the main stem of the Eightmile River at Hamburg Cove, as a scenic river.”

(c) **MANAGEMENT.**—The segments of the main stem and certain tributaries of the Eightmile River in the State of Connecticut designated as components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System by the amendment made by subsection (b) (in this section referred to as the “Eightmile River”) shall be managed in accordance with the Eightmile River Watershed Management Plan and such amendments to the plan as the Secretary of the Interior determines are consistent with this section. The Eightmile River Watershed Management Plan is deemed to satisfy the requirements for a comprehensive management plan required by section 3(d) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1274(d)).

(d) **COMMITTEE.**—The Secretary of the Interior shall coordinate the management responsibilities of the Secretary with regard to the Eightmile River with the Eightmile River Coordinating Committee, as specified in the Eightmile River Watershed Management Plan.

(e) **COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.**—In order to provide for the long-term protection, preservation, and enhancement of the Eightmile River, the Secretary of the Interior may enter into cooperative agreements pursuant to sections 10(e) and 11(b)(1) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1281(e), 1282(b)(1)) with the State of Connecticut, the towns of Salem, Lyme, and East Haddam, Connecticut, and appropriate local planning and environmental organizations. All cooperative agreements authorized by this subsection shall be consistent with the Eightmile River Watershed Management Plan and may include provisions for financial or other assistance from the United States.

(f) **RELATION TO NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM.**—Notwithstanding section 10(c) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1281(c)), the Eightmile River shall not be administered as part of the National Park System or be subject to regulations which govern the National Park System.

(g) **LAND MANAGEMENT.**—The zoning ordinances adopted by the towns of Salem, East Haddam, and Lyme, Connecticut, in effect as of December 8, 2005, including provisions for conservation of floodplains, wetlands, and watercourses associated with the segments, are deemed to satisfy the standards and requirements of section 6(c) of the Wild and

Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1277 (c)). For the purpose of section 6(c) of that Act, such towns shall be deemed "villages" and the provisions of that section, which prohibit Federal acquisition of lands by condemnation, shall apply to the segments designated by subsection (b). The authority of the Secretary to acquire lands for the purposes of this section shall be limited to acquisition by donation or acquisition with the consent of the owner thereof, and shall be subject to the additional criteria set forth in the Eightmile River Watershed Management Plan.

(h) **WATERSHED APPROACH.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—In furtherance of the watershed approach to resource preservation and enhancement articulated in the Eightmile River Watershed Management Plan, the tributaries of the Eightmile River watershed specified in paragraph (2) are recognized as integral to the protection and enhancement of the Eightmile River and its watershed.

(2) **COVERED TRIBUTARIES.**—Paragraph (1) applies with respect to Beaver Brook, Big Brook, Burnhams Brook, Cedar Pond Brook, Cranberry Meadow Brook, Early Brook, Falls Brook, Fraser Brook, Harris Brook, Hedge Brook, Lake Hayward Brook, Malt House Brook, Muddy Brook, Ransom Brook, Rattlesnake Ledge Brook, Shingle Mill Brook, Strongs Brook, Tisdale Brook, Witch Meadow Brook, and all other perennial streams within the Eightmile River watershed.

(i) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this section and the amendment made by subsection (b).

Subtitle F—Denali National Park and Alaska Railroad Exchange

SEC. 351. DENALI NATIONAL PARK AND ALASKA RAILROAD CORPORATION EXCHANGE.

(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **CORPORATION.**—The term "Corporation" means the Alaska Railroad Corporation owned by the State of Alaska.

(2) **SECRETARY.**—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

(b) **EXCHANGE.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—

(A) **EASEMENT EXPANDED.**—The Secretary is authorized to grant to the Alaska Railroad Corporation an exclusive-use easement on land that is identified by the Secretary within Denali National Park for the purpose of providing a location to the Corporation for construction, maintenance, and on-going operation of track and associated support facilities for turning railroad trains around near Denali Park Station.

(B) **EASEMENT RELINQUISHED.**—In exchange for the easement granted in subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall require the relinquishment of certain portions of the Corporation's existing exclusive use easement within the boundary of Denali National Park.

(2) **CONDITIONS OF THE EXCHANGE.**—

(A) **EQUAL EXCHANGE.**—The exchange of easements under this section shall be on an approximately equal-acre basis.

(B) **TOTAL ACRES.**—The easement granted under paragraph (1)(A) shall not exceed 25 acres.

(C) **INTERESTS CONVEYED.**—The easement conveyed to the Alaska Railroad Corporation by the Secretary under this section shall be under the same terms as the exclusive use easement granted to the Railroad in Denali National Park in the Deed for Exclusive Use Easement and Railroad Related Improvements filed in Book 33, pages 985-994 of the Nenana Recording District, Alaska, pursuant

to the Alaska Railroad Transfer Act of 1982 (45 U.S.C. 1201 et seq.). The easement relinquished by the Alaska Railroad Corporation to the United States under this section shall, with respect to the portion being exchanged, be the full title and interest received by the Alaska Railroad in the Deed for Exclusive Use Easement and Railroad Related Improvements filed in Book 33, pages 985-994 of the Nenana Recording District, Alaska, pursuant to the Alaska Railroad Transfer Act of 1982 (45 U.S.C. 1201 et seq.).

(D) **COSTS.**—The Alaska Railroad shall pay all costs associated with the exchange under this section, including the costs of compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), the costs of any surveys, and other reasonable costs.

(E) **LAND TO BE PART OF WILDERNESS.**—The land underlying any easement relinquished to the United States under this section that is adjacent to designated wilderness is hereby designated as wilderness and added to the Denali Wilderness, the boundaries of which are modified accordingly, and shall be managed in accordance with applicable provisions of the Wilderness Act (78 Stat. 892) and the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980 (94 Stat. 2371).

(F) **OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS.**—The Secretary shall require any additional terms and conditions under this section that the Secretary determines to be appropriate to protect the interests of the United States and of Denali National Park.

Subtitle G—National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Amendments

SEC. 361. AUTHORIZING APPROPRIATIONS FOR SPECIFIC PURPOSES.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Act of 1998 (16 U.S.C. 4691 et seq.) is amended—

(1) by striking section 3(d);

(2) by striking section 4(d); and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

"(a) **AMOUNTS.**—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act \$2,500,000 for each fiscal year, to be allocated as follows:

"(1) \$2,000,000 is to be used for the purposes of section 3.

"(2) \$500,000 is to be used for the purposes of section 4.

"(b) **RESTRICTIONS.**—No amounts may be appropriated for the purposes of this Act except to the Secretary for carrying out the responsibilities of the Secretary as set forth in this Act."

(b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect at the beginning of the fiscal year immediately following the date of the enactment of this Act.

Subtitle H—Grand Canyon Subcontractors

SEC. 371. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) **IDIQ.**—The term "IDIQ" means an Indefinite Deliver/Indefinite Quantity contract.

(2) **PARK.**—The term "park" means Grand Canyon National Park.

(3) **PGI.**—The term "PGI" means Pacific General, Inc.

(4) **SECRETARY.**—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the National Park Service.

SEC. 372. AUTHORIZATION.

The Secretary is authorized, subject to the appropriation of such funds as may be necessary, to pay the amount owed to the subcontractors of PGI for work performed at the park under an IDIQ with PGI between fiscal years 2002 and 2003, provided that—

(1) the primary contract between PGI and the National Park Service is terminated;

(2) the amount owed to the subcontractors is verified;

(3) all reasonable legal avenues or recourse have been exhausted by the subcontractors to recoup amounts owed directly from PGI; and

(4) the subcontractors provide a written statement that payment of the amount verified in paragraph (2) represents payment in full by the United States for all work performed at the park under the IDIQ with PGI between fiscal years 2002 and 2003.

TITLE IV—NATIONAL HERITAGE AREAS

Subtitle A—Journey Through Hallowed Ground National Heritage Area

SEC. 401. PURPOSES.

The purposes of this subtitle include—

(1) to recognize the national importance of the natural and cultural legacies of the area, as demonstrated in the study entitled "The Journey Through Hallowed Ground National Heritage Area Feasibility Study" dated September 2006;

(2) to preserve, support, conserve, and interpret the legacy of the American history created along the National Heritage Area;

(3) to promote heritage, cultural and recreational tourism and to develop educational and cultural programs for visitors and the general public;

(4) to recognize and interpret important events and geographic locations representing key developments in the creation of America, including Native American, Colonial American, European American, and African American heritage;

(5) to recognize and interpret the effect of the Civil War on the civilian population of the National Heritage Area during the war and post-war reconstruction period;

(6) to enhance a cooperative management framework to assist the Commonwealth of Virginia, the State of Maryland, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the State of West Virginia, and their units of local government, the private sector, and citizens residing in the National Heritage Area in conserving, supporting, enhancing, and interpreting the significant historic, cultural and recreational sites in the National Heritage Area; and

(7) to provide appropriate linkages among units of the National Park System within and surrounding the National Heritage Area, to protect, enhance, and interpret resources outside of park boundaries.

SEC. 402. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle—

(1) **NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA.**—The term "National Heritage Area" means the Journey Through Hallowed Ground National Heritage Area established in this subtitle.

(2) **LOCAL COORDINATING ENTITY.**—The term "local coordinating entity" means the Journey Through Hallowed Ground Partnership, a Virginia non-profit, which is hereby designated by Congress—

(A) to develop, in partnership with others, the management plan for the National Heritage Area; and

(B) to act as a catalyst for the implementation of projects and programs among diverse partners in the National Heritage Area.

(3) **MANAGEMENT PLAN.**—The term "management plan" means the plan prepared by the local coordinating entity for the National Heritage Area that specifies actions, policies, strategies, performance goals, and recommendations to meet the goals of the National Heritage Area, in accordance with this subtitle.

(4) **SECRETARY.**—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

SEC. 403. DESIGNATION OF THE JOURNEY THROUGH HALLOWED GROUND NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There is hereby established the Journey Through Hallowed Ground National Heritage Area.

(b) **BOUNDARIES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Heritage Area shall consist of the 175-mile region generally following the Route 15 corridor and surrounding areas from Adams County, Pennsylvania, through Frederick County, Maryland, including the Heart of the Civil War Maryland State Heritage Area, looping through Brunswick, Maryland, to Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, back through Loudoun County, Virginia, to the Route 15 corridor and surrounding areas encompassing portions of Loudoun and Prince William Counties, Virginia, then Fauquier County, Virginia, portions of Spotsylvania and Madison Counties, Virginia, and Culpepper, Rappahannock, Orange, and Albemarle Counties, Virginia.

(2) **MAP.**—The boundaries of the National Heritage Area shall include all of those lands and interests as generally depicted on the map titled “Journey Through Hallowed Ground National Heritage Area”, numbered P90/80,000, and dated October 2006. The map shall be on file and available to the public in the appropriate offices of the National Park Service and the local coordinating entity.

SEC. 404. MANAGEMENT PLAN.

(a) **REQUIREMENTS.**—The management plan for the National Heritage Area shall—

(1) describe comprehensive policies, goals, strategies, and recommendations for telling the story of the heritage of the area covered by the National Heritage Area and encouraging long-term resource protection, enhancement, interpretation, funding, management, and development of the National Heritage Area;

(2) include a description of actions and commitments that Federal, State, Tribal, and local governments, private organizations, and citizens will take to protect, enhance, interpret, fund, manage, and develop the natural, historical, cultural, educational, scenic, and recreational resources of the National Heritage Area;

(3) specify existing and potential sources of funding or economic development strategies to protect, enhance, interpret, fund, manage, and develop the National Heritage Area;

(4) include an inventory of the natural, historical, cultural, educational, scenic, and recreational resources of the National Heritage Area related to the national importance and themes of the National Heritage Area that should be protected, enhanced, interpreted, managed, funded, and developed;

(5) recommend policies and strategies for resource management, including the development of intergovernmental and inter-agency agreements to protect, enhance, interpret, fund, manage, and develop the natural, historical, cultural, educational, scenic, and recreational resources of the National Heritage Area;

(6) describe a program for implementation for the management plan, including—

(A) performance goals;

(B) plans for resource protection, enhancement, interpretation, funding, management, and development; and

(C) specific commitments for implementation that have been made by the local coordinating entity or any Federal, State, Tribal, or local government agency, organization, business, or individual;

(7) include an analysis of, and recommendations for, means by which Federal, State, Tribal, and local programs may best be coordinated (including the role of the National Park Service and other Federal agencies associated with the National Heritage

Area) to further the purposes of this subtitle; and

(8) include a business plan that—

(A) describes the role, operation, financing, and functions of the local coordinating entity and of each of the major activities contained in the management plan; and

(B) provides adequate assurances that the local coordinating entity has the partnerships and financial and other resources necessary to implement the management plan for the National Heritage Area.

(b) **DEADLINE.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 3 years after the date on which funds are first made available to develop the management plan after designation as a National Heritage Area, the local coordinating entity shall submit the management plan to the Secretary for approval.

(2) **TERMINATION OF FUNDING.**—If the management plan is not submitted to the Secretary in accordance with paragraph (1), the local coordinating entity shall not qualify for any additional financial assistance under this subtitle until such time as the management plan is submitted to and approved by the Secretary.

(c) **APPROVAL OF MANAGEMENT PLAN.**—

(1) **REVIEW.**—Not later than 180 days after receiving the plan, the Secretary shall review and approve or disapprove the management plan for a National Heritage Area on the basis of the criteria established under paragraph (3).

(2) **CONSULTATION.**—The Secretary shall consult with the Governor of each State in which the National Heritage Area is located before approving a management plan for the National Heritage Area.

(3) **CRITERIA FOR APPROVAL.**—In determining whether to approve a management plan for a National Heritage Area, the Secretary shall consider whether—

(A) the local coordinating entity represents the diverse interests of the National Heritage Area, including Federal, State, Tribal, and local governments, natural, and historic resource protection organizations, educational institutions, businesses, recreational organizations, community residents, and private property owners;

(B) the local coordinating entity—

(i) has afforded adequate opportunity for public and Federal, State, Tribal, and local governmental involvement (including through workshops and hearings) in the preparation of the management plan; and

(ii) provides for at least semiannual public meetings to ensure adequate implementation of the management plan;

(C) the resource protection, enhancement, interpretation, funding, management, and development strategies described in the management plan, if implemented, would adequately protect, enhance, interpret, fund, manage, and develop the natural, historic, cultural, educational, scenic, and recreational resources of the National Heritage Area;

(D) the management plan would not adversely affect any activities authorized on Federal land under public land laws or land use plans;

(E) the local coordinating entity has demonstrated the financial capability, in partnership with others, to carry out the plan;

(F) the Secretary has received adequate assurances from the appropriate State, Tribal, and local officials whose support is needed to ensure the effective implementation of the State, Tribal, and local elements of the management plan; and

(G) the management plan demonstrates partnerships among the local coordinating entity, Federal, State, Tribal, and local governments, regional planning organizations, nonprofit organizations, or private sector

parties for implementation of the management plan.

(4) **DISAPPROVAL.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—If the Secretary disapproves the management plan, the Secretary—

(i) shall advise the local coordinating entity in writing of the reasons for the disapproval; and

(ii) may make recommendations to the local coordinating entity for revisions to the management plan.

(B) **DEADLINE.**—Not later than 180 days after receiving a revised management plan, the Secretary shall approve or disapprove the revised management plan.

(5) **AMENDMENTS.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—An amendment to the management plan that substantially alters the purposes of the National Heritage Area shall be reviewed by the Secretary and approved or disapproved in the same manner as the original management plan.

(B) **IMPLEMENTATION.**—The local coordinating entity shall not use Federal funds authorized by this subtitle to implement an amendment to the management plan until the Secretary approves the amendment.

(6) **AUTHORITIES.**—The Secretary may—

(A) provide technical assistance under the authority of this subtitle for the development and implementation of the management plan; and

(B) enter into cooperative agreements with interested parties to carry out this subtitle.

SEC. 405. EVALUATION; REPORT.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 3 years before the date on which authority for Federal funding terminates for the National Heritage Area under this subtitle, the Secretary shall—

(1) conduct an evaluation of the accomplishments of the National Heritage Area; and

(2) prepare a report in accordance with subsection (c).

(b) **EVALUATION.**—An evaluation conducted under subsection (a)(1) shall—

(1) assess the progress of the local coordinating entity with respect to—

(A) accomplishing the purposes of the authorizing legislation for the National Heritage Area; and

(B) achieving the goals and objectives of the approved management plan for the National Heritage Area;

(2) analyze the Federal, State, Tribal, local, and private investments in the National Heritage Area to determine the impact of the investments; and

(3) review the management structure, partnership relationships, and funding of the National Heritage Area for purposes of identifying the critical components for sustainability of the National Heritage Area.

(c) **REPORT.**—Based on the evaluation conducted under subsection (a)(1), the Secretary shall submit a report to the Committee on Natural Resources of the United States House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the United States Senate. The report shall include recommendations for the future role of the National Park Service, if any, with respect to the National Heritage Area.

SEC. 406. LOCAL COORDINATING ENTITY.

(a) **DUTIES.**—To further the purposes of the National Heritage Area, the Journey Through Hallowed Ground Partnership, as the local coordinating entity, shall—

(1) prepare a management plan for the National Heritage Area, and submit the management plan to the Secretary, in accordance with this subtitle;

(2) submit an annual report to the Secretary for each fiscal year for which the local coordinating entity receives Federal funds under this subtitle, specifying—

(A) the specific performance goals and accomplishments of the local coordinating entity;

(B) the expenses and income of the local coordinating entity;

(C) the amounts and sources of matching funds;

(D) the amounts leveraged with Federal funds and sources of the leveraging; and

(E) grants made to any other entities during the fiscal year;

(3) make available for audit for each fiscal year for which the local coordinating entity receives Federal funds under this subtitle, all information pertaining to the expenditure of the funds and any matching funds; and

(4) encourage economic viability and sustainability that is consistent with the purposes of the National Heritage Area.

(b) **AUTHORITIES.**—For the purposes of preparing and implementing the approved management plan for the National Heritage Area, the local coordinating entity may use Federal funds made available under this subtitle to—

(1) make grants to political jurisdictions, nonprofit organizations, and other parties within the National Heritage Area;

(2) enter into cooperative agreements with or provide technical assistance to political jurisdictions, nonprofit organizations, Federal agencies, and other interested parties;

(3) hire and compensate staff, including individuals with expertise in—

(A) natural, historical, cultural, educational, scenic, and recreational resource conservation;

(B) economic and community development; and

(C) heritage planning;

(4) obtain funds or services from any source, including other Federal programs;

(5) contract for goods or services; and

(6) support activities of partners and any other activities that further the purposes of the National Heritage Area and are consistent with the approved management plan.

(c) **PROHIBITION ON ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY.**—The local coordinating entity may not use Federal funds authorized under this subtitle to acquire any interest in real property.

SEC. 407. RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Nothing in this subtitle affects the authority of a Federal agency to provide technical or financial assistance under any other law.

(b) **CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION.**—The head of any Federal agency planning to conduct activities that may have an impact on a National Heritage Area is encouraged to consult and coordinate the activities with the Secretary and the local coordinating entity to the maximum extent practicable.

(c) **OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES.**—Nothing in this subtitle—

(1) modifies, alters, or amends any law or regulation authorizing a Federal agency to manage Federal land under the jurisdiction of the Federal agency;

(2) limits the discretion of a Federal land manager to implement an approved land use plan within the boundaries of a National Heritage Area; or

(3) modifies, alters, or amends any authorized use of Federal land under the jurisdiction of a Federal agency.

SEC. 408. PRIVATE PROPERTY AND REGULATORY PROTECTIONS.

Nothing in this subtitle—

(1) abridges the rights of any property owner (whether public or private), including the right to refrain from participating in any plan, project, program, or activity conducted within the National Heritage Area;

(2) requires any property owner to permit public access (including access by Federal, State, Tribal, or local agencies) to the property of the property owner, or to modify public access or use of property of the property owner under any other Federal, State, Tribal, or local law;

(3) alters any duly adopted land use regulation, approved land use plan, or other regulatory authority (such as the authority to make safety improvements or increase the capacity of existing roads or to construct new roads) of any Federal, State, Tribal, or local agency, or conveys any land use or other regulatory authority to any local coordinating entity, including but not necessarily limited to development and management of energy or water or water-related infrastructure;

(4) authorizes or implies the reservation or appropriation of water or water rights;

(5) diminishes the authority of the State to manage fish and wildlife, including the regulation of fishing and hunting within the National Heritage Area; or

(6) creates any liability, or affects any liability under any other law, of any private property owner with respect to any person injured on the private property.

SEC. 409. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—Subject to subsection (b), there are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this subtitle not more than \$1,000,000 for any fiscal year. Funds so appropriated shall remain available until expended.

(b) **LIMITATION ON TOTAL AMOUNTS APPROPRIATED.**—Not more than \$15,000,000 may be appropriated to carry out this subtitle.

(c) **COST-SHARING REQUIREMENT.**—The Federal share of the total cost of any activity under this subtitle shall be not more than 50 percent; the non-Federal contribution may be in the form of in-kind contributions of goods or services fairly valued.

SEC. 410. USE OF FEDERAL FUNDS FROM OTHER SOURCES.

Nothing in this subtitle shall preclude the local coordinating entity from using Federal funds available under other laws for the purposes for which those funds were authorized.

SEC. 411. SUNSET FOR GRANTS AND OTHER ASSISTANCE.

The authority of the Secretary to provide financial assistance under this subtitle terminates on the date that is 15 years after the date of enactment of this subtitle.

Subtitle B—Niagara Falls National Heritage Area

SEC. 421. PURPOSES.

The purposes of this subtitle include—

(1) to recognize the national importance of the natural and cultural legacies of the area, as demonstrated in the National Park Service study report entitled “Niagara National Heritage Area Study” dated 2005;

(2) to preserve, support, conserve, and interpret the natural, scenic, cultural, and historic resources within the National Heritage Area;

(3) to promote heritage, cultural, and recreational tourism and to develop educational and cultural programs for visitors and the general public;

(4) to recognize and interpret important events and geographic locations representing key developments in American history and culture, including Native American, Colonial American, European American, and African American heritage;

(5) to enhance a cooperative management framework to assist State, local, and Tribal governments, the private sector, and citizens residing in the National Heritage Area in conserving, supporting, enhancing, and interpreting the significant historic, cultural, and recreational sites in the National Heritage Area;

(6) to conserve and interpret the history of the development of hydroelectric power in the United States and its role in developing the American economy; and

(7) to provide appropriate linkages among units of the National Park System within and surrounding the National Heritage Area, to protect, enhance, and interpret resources outside of park boundaries.

SEC. 422. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) **COMMISSION.**—The term “Commission” means the Niagara Falls National Heritage Area Commission established under this subtitle.

(2) **GOVERNOR.**—The term “Governor” means the Governor of the State of New York.

(3) **LOCAL COORDINATING ENTITY.**—The term “local coordinating entity” means the local coordinating entity for the National Heritage Area designated pursuant to this subtitle.

(4) **MANAGEMENT PLAN.**—The term “management plan” means the plan prepared by the local coordinating entity for the National Heritage Area that specifies actions, policies, strategies, performance goals, and recommendations to meet the goals of the National Heritage Area, in accordance with this subtitle.

(5) **NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA.**—The term “National Heritage Area” means the Niagara Falls National Heritage Area established in this subtitle.

(6) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

SEC. 423. DESIGNATION OF THE NIAGARA FALLS NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There is hereby established the Niagara Falls National Heritage Area.

(b) **BOUNDARIES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The National Heritage Area shall consist of the area from the western boundary of the town of Wheatfield, New York, extending to the mouth of the Niagara River on Lake Ontario, including the city of Niagara Falls, New York, the villages of Youngstown and Lewiston, New York, land and water within the boundaries of the Heritage Area in Niagara County, New York, and any additional thematically related sites within Erie and Niagara Counties, New York, that are identified in the management plan developed under this subtitle.

(2) **MAP.**—The boundaries of the National Heritage Area shall be as generally depicted on the map titled “Niagara Falls National Heritage Area,” and numbered P76/80.000 and dated July, 2006. The map shall be on file and available to the public in the appropriate offices of the National Park Service and the local coordinating entity.

SEC. 424. MANAGEMENT PLAN.

(a) **REQUIREMENTS.**—The management plan for the National Heritage Area shall—

(1) describe comprehensive policies, goals, strategies, and recommendations for telling the story of the heritage of the area covered by the National Heritage Area and encouraging long-term resource protection, enhancement, interpretation, funding, management, and development of the National Heritage Area;

(2) include a description of actions and commitments that Federal, State, Tribal, and local governments, private organizations, and citizens will take to protect, enhance, interpret, fund, manage, and develop the natural, historical, cultural, educational, scenic, and recreational resources of the National Heritage Area;

(3) specify existing and potential sources of funding or economic development strategies to protect, enhance, interpret, fund, manage, and develop the National Heritage Area;

(4) include an inventory of the natural, historical, cultural, educational, scenic, and recreational resources of the National Heritage Area related to the national importance and themes of the National Heritage Area that should be protected, enhanced, interpreted, managed, funded, and developed;

(5) recommend policies and strategies for resource management, including the development of intergovernmental and inter-agency agreements to protect, enhance, interpret, fund, manage, and develop the natural, historical, cultural, educational, scenic, and recreational resources of the National Heritage Area;

(6) describe a program for implementation for the management plan, including—

(A) performance goals;

(B) plans for resource protection, enhancement, interpretation, funding, management, and development; and

(C) specific commitments for implementation that have been made by the local coordinating entity or any Federal, State, Tribal, or local government agency, organization, business, or individual;

(7) include an analysis of, and recommendations for, means by which Federal, State, Tribal, and local programs may best be coordinated (including the role of the National Park Service and other Federal agencies associated with the National Heritage Area) to further the purposes of this subtitle; and

(8) include a business plan that—

(A) describes the role, operation, financing, and functions of the local coordinating entity and of each of the major activities contained in the management plan; and

(B) provides adequate assurances that the local coordinating entity has the partnerships and financial and other resources necessary to implement the management plan for the National Heritage Area.

(b) DEADLINE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after the date on which funds are first made available to develop the management plan after designation as a National Heritage Area, the local coordinating entity shall submit the management plan to the Secretary for approval.

(2) TERMINATION OF FUNDING.—If the management plan is not submitted to the Secretary in accordance with paragraph (1), the local coordinating entity shall not qualify for any additional financial assistance under this subtitle until such time as the management plan is submitted to and approved by the Secretary.

(c) APPROVAL OF MANAGEMENT PLAN.—

(1) REVIEW.—Not later than 180 days after receiving the plan, the Secretary shall review and approve or disapprove the management plan for a National Heritage Area on the basis of the criteria established under paragraph (3).

(2) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary shall consult with the Governor before approving a management plan for the National Heritage Area.

(3) CRITERIA FOR APPROVAL.—In determining whether to approve a management plan for a National Heritage Area, the Secretary shall consider whether—

(A) the local coordinating entity represents the diverse interests of the National Heritage Area, including Federal, State, Tribal, and local governments, natural and historic resource protection organizations, educational institutions, businesses, recreational organizations, community residents, and private property owners;

(B) the local coordinating entity—

(1) has afforded adequate opportunity for public and Federal, State, Tribal, and local governmental involvement (including

through workshops and hearings) in the preparation of the management plan; and

(ii) provides for at least semiannual public meetings to ensure adequate implementation of the management plan;

(C) the resource protection, enhancement, interpretation, funding, management, and development strategies described in the management plan, if implemented, would adequately protect, enhance, interpret, fund, manage, and develop the natural, historic, cultural, educational, scenic, and recreational resources of the National Heritage Area;

(D) the management plan would not adversely affect any activities authorized on Federal land under public land laws or land use plans;

(E) the local coordinating entity has demonstrated the financial capability, in partnership with others, to carry out the plan;

(F) the Secretary has received adequate assurances from the appropriate State, Tribal, and local officials whose support is needed to ensure the effective implementation of the State, Tribal, and local elements of the management plan; and

(G) the management plan demonstrates partnerships among the local coordinating entity, Federal, State, Tribal, and local governments, regional planning organizations, nonprofit organizations, or private sector parties for implementation of the management plan.

(4) DISAPPROVAL.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary disapproves the management plan, the Secretary—

(i) shall advise the local coordinating entity in writing of the reasons for the disapproval; and

(ii) may make recommendations to the local coordinating entity for revisions to the management plan.

(B) DEADLINE.—Not later than 180 days after receiving a revised management plan, the Secretary shall approve or disapprove the revised management plan.

(5) AMENDMENTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—An amendment to the management plan that substantially alters the purposes of the National Heritage Area shall be reviewed by the Secretary and approved or disapproved in the same manner as the original management plan.

(B) IMPLEMENTATION.—The local coordinating entity shall not use Federal funds authorized by this subtitle to implement an amendment to the management plan until the Secretary approves the amendment.

(6) AUTHORITIES.—The Secretary may—

(A) provide technical assistance under the authority of this subtitle for the development and implementation of the management plan; and

(B) enter into cooperative agreements with interested parties to carry out this subtitle.

SEC. 425. EVALUATION; REPORT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years before the date on which authority for Federal funding terminates for the National Heritage Area under this subtitle the Secretary shall—

(1) conduct an evaluation of the accomplishments of the National Heritage Area; and

(2) prepare a report in accordance with subsection (c).

(b) EVALUATION.—An evaluation conducted under subsection (a)(1) shall—

(1) assess the progress of the local coordinating entity with respect to—

(A) accomplishing the purposes of the authorizing legislation for the National Heritage Area; and

(B) achieving the goals and objectives of the approved management plan for the National Heritage Area;

(2) analyze the Federal, State, Tribal, and local, and private investments in the National Heritage Area to determine the impact of the investments; and

(3) review the management structure, partnership relationships, and funding of the National Heritage Area for purposes of identifying the critical components for sustainability of the National Heritage Area.

(c) REPORT.—Based on the evaluation conducted under subsection (a)(1), the Secretary shall submit a report to the Committee on Natural Resources of the United States House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the United States Senate. The report shall include recommendations for the future role of the National Park Service, if any, with respect to the National Heritage Area.

SEC. 426. LOCAL COORDINATING ENTITY.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The local coordinating entity for the Heritage Area shall be—

(1) for the 5-year period beginning on the date of enactment of this subtitle, the Commission; and

(2) on expiration of the 5-year period described in paragraph (1), a private nonprofit or governmental organization designated by the Commission.

(b) DUTIES.—To further the purposes of the National Heritage Area, the local coordinating entity, shall—

(1) prepare a management plan for the National Heritage Area, and submit the management plan to the Secretary, in accordance with this subtitle;

(2) submit an annual report to the Secretary for each fiscal year for which the local coordinating entity receives Federal funds under this subtitle, specifying—

(A) the specific performance goals and accomplishments of the local coordinating entity;

(B) the expenses and income of the local coordinating entity;

(C) the amounts and sources of matching funds;

(D) the amounts leveraged with Federal funds and sources of the leveraging; and

(E) grants made to any other entities during the fiscal year;

(3) make available for audit for each fiscal year for which the local coordinating entity receives Federal funds under this subtitle, all information pertaining to the expenditure of the funds and any matching funds;

(4) encourage economic viability and sustainability that is consistent with the purposes of the National Heritage Area; and

(5) coordinate projects, activities, and programs with the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor.

(c) AUTHORITIES.—For the purposes of preparing and implementing the approved management plan for the National Heritage Area, the local coordinating entity may use Federal funds made available under this subtitle to—

(1) make grants to political jurisdictions, nonprofit organizations, and other parties within the National Heritage Area;

(2) enter into cooperative agreements with or provide technical assistance to political jurisdictions, nonprofit organizations, Federal agencies, and other interested parties;

(3) hire and compensate staff, including individuals with expertise in—

(A) natural, historical, cultural, educational, scenic, and recreational resource conservation;

(B) economic and community development; and

(C) heritage planning;

(4) obtain funds or services from any source, including other Federal programs;

(5) contract for goods or services; and

(6) support activities of partners and any other activities that further the purposes of

the National Heritage Area and are consistent with the approved management plan.

(d) **PROHIBITION ON ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY.**—The local coordinating entity may not use Federal funds authorized under this subtitle to acquire any interest in real property.

SEC. 427. NIAGARA FALLS HERITAGE AREA COMMISSION.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There is established within the Department of the Interior the Niagara Falls National Heritage Area Commission.

(b) **MEMBERSHIP.**—The Commission shall be composed of 17 members, of whom—

(1) 1 member shall be the Director of the National Park Service (or a designee);

(2) 5 members shall be appointed by the Secretary, after consideration of the recommendation of the Governor, from among individuals with knowledge and experience of—

(A) the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, the Niagara River Greenway Commission, the New York Power Authority, the USA Niagara Development Corporation, and the Niagara Tourism and Convention Corporation; or

(B) any successors of the agencies described in subparagraph (A);

(3) 1 member shall be appointed by the Secretary, after consideration of the recommendation of the mayor of Niagara Falls, New York;

(4) 1 member shall be appointed by the Secretary, after consideration of the recommendation of the mayor of the village of Youngstown, New York;

(5) 1 member shall be appointed by the Secretary, after consideration of the recommendation of the mayor of the village of Lewiston, New York;

(6) 1 member shall be appointed by the Secretary, after consideration of the recommendation of the Tuscarora Nation;

(7) 1 member shall be appointed by the Secretary, after consideration of the recommendation of the Seneca Nation of Indians; and

(8) 6 members shall be individuals who have an interest in, support for, and expertise appropriate to tourism, regional planning, history and historic preservation, cultural or natural resource management, conservation, recreation, and education, or museum services, of whom—

(A) 4 members shall be appointed by the Secretary, after consideration of the recommendation of the 2 members of the Senate from the State; and

(B) 2 members shall be appointed by the Secretary, after consideration of the recommendation of the Member of the House of Representatives whose district encompasses the National Heritage Area.

(c) **TERMS; VACANCIES.**—

(1) **TERM.**—A member of the Commission shall be appointed for a term not to exceed 5 years.

(2) **VACANCIES.**—

(A) **PARTIAL TERM.**—A member appointed to fill a vacancy on the Commission shall serve for the remainder of the term for which the predecessor of the member was appointed.

(B) **IN GENERAL.**—A vacancy on the Commission shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment was made.

(d) **CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON.**—

(1) **SELECTION.**—The Commission shall select a Chairperson and Vice Chairperson from among the members of the Commission.

(2) **VICE CHAIRPERSON.**—The Vice Chairperson shall serve as the Chairperson in the absence of the Chairperson.

(e) **QUORUM.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—A majority of the members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum.

(2) **TRANSACTION.**—For the transaction of any business or the exercise of any power of the Commission, the Commission shall have the power to act by a majority vote of the members present at any meeting at which a quorum is in attendance.

(f) **MEETINGS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Commission shall meet at least quarterly at the call of—

(A) the Chairperson; or

(B) a majority of the members of the Commission.

(2) **NOTICE.**—Notice of Commission meetings and agendas for the meetings shall be published in local newspapers that are distributed throughout the National Heritage Area.

(3) **APPLICABLE LAW.**—Meetings of the Commission shall be subject to section 552b of title 5, United States Code.

(g) **AUTHORITIES OF THE COMMISSION.**—In addition to the authorities otherwise granted in this subtitle, the Commission may—

(1) request and accept from the head of any Federal agency, on a reimbursable or non-reimbursable basis, any personnel of the Federal agency to the Commission to assist in carrying out the duties of the Commission;

(2) request and accept from the head of any State agency or any agency of a political subdivision of the State, on a reimbursable or nonreimbursable basis, any personnel of the agency to the Commission to assist in carrying out the duties of the Commission;

(3) seek, accept, and dispose of gifts, bequests, grants, or donations of money, personal property, or services; and

(4) use the United States mails in the same manner as other agencies of the Federal Government.

(h) **DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION.**—To further the purposes of the National Heritage Area, in addition to the duties otherwise listed in this subtitle, the Commission shall assist in the transition of the management of the National Heritage Area from the Commission to the local coordinating entity designated under this subtitle.

(i) **COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—A member of the Commission shall serve without compensation.

(2) **TRAVEL EXPENSES.**—A member of the Commission shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for an employee of an agency under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from the home or regular place of business of the member in the performance of the duties of the Commission.

(j) **GIFTS.**—For purposes of section 170(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, any gift or charitable contribution to the Commission shall be considered to be a charitable contribution or gift to the United States.

(k) **USE OF FEDERAL FUNDS.**—Except as provided for the leasing of administrative facilities under subsection (g)(1), the Commission may not use Federal funds made available to the Commission under this subtitle to acquire any real property or interest in real property.

SEC. 428. RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Nothing in this subtitle affects the authority of a Federal agency to provide technical or financial assistance under any other law.

(b) **CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION.**—The head of any Federal agency planning to conduct activities that may have an impact on a National Heritage Area is encouraged to consult and coordinate the activities with the Secretary and the local coordinating entity to the maximum extent practicable.

(c) **OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES.**—Nothing in this subtitle—

(1) modifies, alters, or amends any law or regulation authorizing a Federal agency to manage Federal land under the jurisdiction of the Federal agency;

(2) limits the discretion of a Federal land manager to implement an approved land use plan within the boundaries of a National Heritage Area; or

(3) modifies, alters, or amends any authorized use of Federal land under the jurisdiction of a Federal agency.

SEC. 429. PRIVATE PROPERTY AND REGULATORY PROTECTIONS.

Nothing in this subtitle—

(1) abridges the rights of any property owner (whether public or private), including the right to refrain from participating in any plan, project, program, or activity conducted within the National Heritage Area;

(2) requires any property owner to permit public access (including access by Federal, State, Tribal, or local agencies) to the property of the property owner, or to modify public access or use of property of the property owner under any other Federal, State, Tribal, or local law;

(3) alters any duly adopted land use regulation, approved land use plan, or other regulatory authority of any Federal, State, Tribal, or local agency, or conveys any land use or other regulatory authority to any local coordinating entity, including but not necessarily limited to development and management of energy, water, or water-related infrastructure;

(4) authorizes or implies the reservation or appropriation of water or water rights;

(5) diminishes the authority of the State to manage fish and wildlife, including the regulation of fishing and hunting within the National Heritage Area; or

(6) creates any liability, or affects any liability under any other law, of any private property owner with respect to any person injured on the private property.

SEC. 430. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—Subject to subsection (b), there are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this subtitle not more than \$1,000,000 for any fiscal year. Funds so appropriated shall remain available until expended.

(b) **LIMITATION ON TOTAL AMOUNTS APPROPRIATED.**—Not more than \$15,000,000 may be appropriated to carry out this subtitle.

(c) **COST-SHARING REQUIREMENT.**—The Federal share of the total cost of any activity under this subtitle shall be not more than 50 percent; the non-Federal contribution may be in the form of in-kind contributions of goods or services fairly valued.

SEC. 431. USE OF FEDERAL FUNDS FROM OTHER SOURCES.

Nothing in this subtitle shall preclude the local coordinating entity from using Federal funds available under other laws for the purposes for which those funds were authorized.

SEC. 432. SUNSET FOR GRANTS AND OTHER ASSISTANCE.

The authority of the Secretary to provide financial assistance under this subtitle terminates on the date that is 15 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

Subtitle C—Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area

SEC. 441. PURPOSES.

The purposes of this subtitle include—

(1) to recognize the significant natural and cultural legacies of the area, as demonstrated in the study entitled "Feasibility Study of the Proposed Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area" prepared for the Looking for Lincoln Heritage Coalition in 2002 and revised in 2007;

(2) to promote heritage, cultural and recreational tourism and to develop educational and cultural programs for visitors and the general public;

(3) to recognize and interpret important events and geographic locations representing key periods in the growth of America, including Native American, Colonial American, European American, and African American heritage;

(4) to recognize and interpret the distinctive role the region played in shaping the man who would become the 16th President of the United States, and how Abraham Lincoln's life left its traces in the stories, folklore, buildings, streetscapes, and landscapes of the region;

(5) to provide a cooperative management framework to foster a close working relationship with all levels of government, the private sector, and the local communities in the region in identifying, preserving, interpreting, and developing the historical, cultural, scenic, and natural resources of the region for the educational and inspirational benefit of current and future generations; and

(6) to provide appropriate linkages between units of the National Park System and communities, governments, and organizations within the Heritage Area.

SEC. 442. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) **LOCAL COORDINATING ENTITY.**—The term “local coordinating entity” means the Looking for Lincoln Heritage Coalition, which is hereby designated by Congress—

(A) to develop, in partnership with others, the management plan for the National Heritage Area; and

(B) to act as a catalyst for the implementation of projects and programs among diverse partners in the National Heritage Area.

(2) **MANAGEMENT PLAN.**—The term “management plan” means the plan prepared by the local coordinating entity for the National Heritage Area that specifies actions, policies, strategies, performance goals, and recommendations to meet the goals of the National Heritage Area, in accordance with this subtitle.

(3) **NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA.**—The term “National Heritage Area” means the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area established in this subtitle.

(4) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

SEC. 443. DESIGNATION OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There is hereby established the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area.

(b) **BOUNDARIES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The National Heritage Area shall consist of sites as designated by the management plan within a core area located in Central Illinois, consisting of Adams, Brown, Calhoun, Cass, Champaign, Christian, Clark, Coles, Cumberland, Dewitt, Douglas, Edgar, Fayette, Fulton, Greene, Hancock, Henderson, Jersey, Knox, LaSalle, Logan, Macon, Macoupin, Madison, Mason, McDonough, McLean, Menard, Montgomery, Morgan, Moultrie, Peoria, Piatt, Pike, Sangamon, Schuyler, Scott, Shelby, Tazewell, Vermillion, Warren and Woodford counties.

(2) **MAP.**—The boundaries of the National Heritage Area shall be as generally depicted on the map titled “Proposed Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area”, and numbered 338/80,000, and dated July 2007. The map shall be on file and available to the public in the appropriate offices of the National Park Service and the local coordinating entity.

SEC. 444. MANAGEMENT PLAN.

(a) **REQUIREMENTS.**—The management plan for the National Heritage Area shall—

(1) describe comprehensive policies, goals, strategies, and recommendations for telling the story of the heritage of the area covered by the National Heritage Area and encouraging long-term resource protection, enhancement, interpretation, funding, management, and development of the National Heritage Area;

(2) include a description of actions and commitments that Federal, State, Tribal, and local governments, private organizations, and citizens will take to protect, enhance, interpret, fund, manage, and develop the natural, historical, cultural, educational, scenic, and recreational resources of the National Heritage Area;

(3) specify existing and potential sources of funding or economic development strategies to protect, enhance, interpret, fund, manage, and develop the National Heritage Area;

(4) include an inventory of the natural, historical, cultural, educational, scenic, and recreational resources of the National Heritage Area related to the national importance and themes of the National Heritage Area that should be protected, enhanced, interpreted, managed, funded, and developed;

(5) recommend policies and strategies for resource management, including the development of intergovernmental and interagency agreements to protect, enhance, interpret, fund, manage, and develop the natural, historical, cultural, educational, scenic, and recreational resources of the National Heritage Area;

(6) describe a program for implementation for the management plan, including—

(A) performance goals;

(B) plans for resource protection, enhancement, interpretation, funding, management, and development; and

(C) specific commitments for implementation that have been made by the local coordinating entity or any Federal, State, Tribal, or local government agency, organization, business, or individual;

(7) include an analysis of, and recommendations for, means by which Federal, State, Tribal, and local programs may best be coordinated (including the role of the National Park Service and other Federal agencies associated with the National Heritage Area) to further the purposes of this subtitle; and

(8) include a business plan that—

(A) describes the role, operation, financing, and functions of the local coordinating entity and of each of the major activities contained in the management plan; and

(B) provides adequate assurances that the local coordinating entity has the partnerships and financial and other resources necessary to implement the management plan for the National Heritage Area.

(b) **DEADLINE.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 3 years after the date on which funds are first made available to develop the management plan after designation as a National Heritage Area, the local coordinating entity shall submit the management plan to the Secretary for approval.

(2) **TERMINATION OF FUNDING.**—If the management plan is not submitted to the Secretary in accordance with paragraph (1), the local coordinating entity shall not qualify for any additional financial assistance under this subtitle until such time as the management plan is submitted to and approved by the Secretary.

(c) **APPROVAL OF MANAGEMENT PLAN.**—

(1) **REVIEW.**—Not later than 180 days after receiving the plan, the Secretary shall review and approve or disapprove the management plan for a National Heritage Area on the basis of the criteria established under paragraph (3).

(2) **CONSULTATION.**—The Secretary shall consult with the Governor of each State in which the National Heritage Area is located before approving a management plan for the National Heritage Area.

(3) **CRITERIA FOR APPROVAL.**—In determining whether to approve a management plan for a National Heritage Area, the Secretary shall consider whether—

(A) the local coordinating entity represents the diverse interests of the National Heritage Area, including Federal, State, Tribal, and local governments, natural, and historic resource protection organizations, educational institutions, businesses, recreational organizations, community residents, and private property owners;

(B) the local coordinating entity—

(i) has afforded adequate opportunity for public and Federal, State, Tribal, and local governmental involvement (including through workshops and hearings) in the preparation of the management plan; and

(ii) provides for at least semiannual public meetings to ensure adequate implementation of the management plan;

(C) the resource protection, enhancement, interpretation, funding, management, and development strategies described in the management plan, if implemented, would adequately protect, enhance, interpret, fund, manage, and develop the natural, historic, cultural, educational, scenic, and recreational resources of the National Heritage Area;

(D) the management plan would not adversely affect any activities authorized on Federal land under public land laws or land use plans;

(E) the local coordinating entity has demonstrated the financial capability, in partnership with others, to carry out the plan;

(F) the Secretary has received adequate assurances from the appropriate State, Tribal, and local officials whose support is needed to ensure the effective implementation of the State, Tribal, and local elements of the management plan; and

(G) the management plan demonstrates partnerships among the local coordinating entity, Federal, State, Tribal, and local governments, regional planning organizations, nonprofit organizations, or private sector parties for implementation of the management plan.

(4) **DISAPPROVAL.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—If the Secretary disapproves the management plan, the Secretary—

(i) shall advise the local coordinating entity in writing of the reasons for the disapproval; and

(ii) may make recommendations to the local coordinating entity for revisions to the management plan.

(B) **DEADLINE.**—Not later than 180 days after receiving a revised management plan, the Secretary shall approve or disapprove the revised management plan.

(5) **AMENDMENTS.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—An amendment to the management plan that substantially alters the purposes of the National Heritage Area shall be reviewed by the Secretary and approved or disapproved in the same manner as the original management plan.

(B) **IMPLEMENTATION.**—The local coordinating entity shall not use Federal funds authorized by this subtitle to implement an amendment to the management plan until the Secretary approves the amendment.

(6) **AUTHORITIES.**—The Secretary may—

(A) provide technical assistance under the authority of this subtitle for the development and implementation of the management plan; and

(B) enter into cooperative agreements with interested parties to carry out this subtitle.

SEC. 445. EVALUATION; REPORT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years before the date on which authority for Federal funding terminates for the National Heritage Area under this subtitle, the Secretary shall—

(1) conduct an evaluation of the accomplishments of the National Heritage Area; and

(2) prepare a report in accordance with subsection (c).

(b) EVALUATION.—An evaluation conducted under subsection (a)(1) shall—

(1) assess the progress of the local coordinating entity with respect to—

(A) accomplishing the purposes of the authorizing legislation for the National Heritage Area; and

(B) achieving the goals and objectives of the approved management plan for the National Heritage Area;

(2) analyze the Federal, State, Tribal, and local, and private investments in the National Heritage Area to determine the impact of the investments; and

(3) review the management structure, partnership relationships, and funding of the National Heritage Area for purposes of identifying the critical components for sustainability of the National Heritage Area.

(c) REPORT.—Based on the evaluation conducted under subsection (a)(1), the Secretary shall submit a report to the Committee on Natural Resources of the United States House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the United States Senate. The report shall include recommendations for the future role of the National Park Service, if any, with respect to the National Heritage Area.

SEC. 446. LOCAL COORDINATING ENTITY.

(a) DUTIES.—To further the purposes of the National Heritage Area, the Looking for Lincoln Heritage Coalition, as the local coordinating entity, shall—

(1) prepare a management plan for the National Heritage Area, and submit the management plan to the Secretary, in accordance with this subtitle;

(2) submit an annual report to the secretary for each fiscal year for which the local coordinating entity receives Federal funds under this subtitle, specifying—

(A) the specific performance goals and accomplishments of the local coordinating entity;

(B) the expenses and income of the local coordinating entity;

(C) the amounts and sources of matching funds;

(D) the amounts leveraged with Federal funds and sources of the leveraging; and

(E) grants made to any other entities during the fiscal year;

(3) make available for audit for each fiscal year for which the local coordinating entity receives Federal funds under this subtitle, all information pertaining to the expenditure of the funds and any matching funds; and

(4) encourage economic viability and sustainability that is consistent with the purposes of the National Heritage Area.

(b) AUTHORITIES.—For the purposes of preparing and implementing the approved management plan for the National Heritage Area, the local coordinating entity may use Federal funds made available under this subtitle to—

(1) make grants to political jurisdictions, nonprofit organizations, and other parties within the National Heritage Area;

(2) enter into cooperative agreements with or provide technical assistance to political jurisdictions, nonprofit organizations, Federal agencies, and other interested parties;

(3) hire and compensate staff, including individuals with expertise in—

(A) natural, historical, cultural, educational, scenic, and recreational resource conservation;

(B) economic and community development; and

(C) heritage planning;

(4) obtain funds or services from any source, including other Federal programs;

(5) contract for goods or services; and

(6) support activities of partners and any other activities that further the purposes of the National Heritage Area and are consistent with the approved management plan.

(c) PROHIBITION ON ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY.—The local coordinating entity may not use Federal funds authorized under this subtitle to acquire any interest in real property.

SEC. 447. RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this subtitle affects the authority of a Federal agency to provide technical or financial assistance under any other law.

(b) CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION.—The head of any Federal agency planning to conduct activities that may have an impact on a National Heritage Area is encouraged to consult and coordinate the activities with the Secretary and the local coordinating entity to the maximum extent practicable.

(c) OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES.—Nothing in this subtitle—

(1) modifies, alters, or amends any law or regulation authorizing a Federal agency to manage Federal land under the jurisdiction of the Federal agency;

(2) limits the discretion of a Federal land manager to implement an approved land use plan within the boundaries of a National Heritage Area; or

(3) modifies, alters, or amends any authorized use of Federal land under the jurisdiction of a Federal agency.

SEC. 448. PRIVATE PROPERTY AND REGULATORY PROTECTIONS.

Nothing in this subtitle—

(1) abridges the rights of any property owner (whether public or private), including the right to refrain from participating in any plan, project, program, or activity conducted within the National Heritage Area;

(2) requires any property owner to permit public access (including access by Federal, State, Tribal, or local agencies) to the property of the property owner, or to modify public access or use of property of the property owner under any other Federal, State, Tribal, or local law;

(3) alters any duly adopted land use regulation, approved land use plan, or other regulatory authority of any Federal, State, Tribal, or local agency, or conveys any land use or other regulatory authority to any local coordinating entity, including but not necessarily limited to development and management of energy, water, or water-related infrastructure;

(4) authorizes or implies the reservation or appropriation of water or water rights;

(5) diminishes the authority of the State to manage fish and wildlife, including the regulation of fishing and hunting within the National Heritage Area; or

(6) creates any liability, or affects any liability under any other law, of any private property owner with respect to any person injured on the private property.

SEC. 449. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Subject to subsection (b), there are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this subtitle not more than \$1,000,000 for any fiscal year. Funds so appropriated shall remain available until expended.

(b) LIMITATION ON TOTAL AMOUNTS APPROPRIATED.—Not more than \$15,000,000 may be appropriated to carry out this subtitle.

(c) COST-SHARING REQUIREMENT.—The Federal share of the total cost of any activity under this subtitle shall be not more than 50 percent; the non-Federal contribution may be in the form of in-kind contributions of goods or services fairly valued.

SEC. 450. USE OF FEDERAL FUNDS FROM OTHER SOURCES.

Nothing in this subtitle shall preclude the local coordinating entity from using Federal funds available under other laws for the purposes for which those funds were authorized.

SEC. 451. SUNSET FOR GRANTS AND OTHER ASSISTANCE.

The authority of the Secretary to provide financial assistance under this subtitle terminates on the date that is 15 years after the date of the enactment of this subtitle.

Subtitle D—Authorization Extensions and Viability Studies**SEC. 461. EXTENSIONS OF AUTHORIZED APPROPRIATIONS.**

Division II of the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-333; 16 U.S.C. 461 note) is amended in each of sections 108(a), 209(a), 311(a), 409(a), 508(a), 608(a), 708(a), 810(a) (as redesignated by section 474(9)), and 909(c), by striking “\$10,000,000” and inserting “\$15,000,000”.

SEC. 462. EVALUATION AND REPORT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—For the nine National Heritage Areas authorized in Division II of the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996, not later than 3 years before the date on which authority for Federal funding terminates for each National Heritage Area, the Secretary shall—

(1) conduct an evaluation of the accomplishments of the National Heritage Area; and

(2) prepare a report in accordance with subsection (c).

(b) EVALUATION.—An evaluation conducted under subsection (a)(1) shall—

(1) assess the progress of the local management entity with respect to—

(A) accomplishing the purposes of the authorizing legislation for the National Heritage Area; and

(B) achieving the goals and objectives of the approved management plan for the National Heritage Area;

(2) analyze the investments of Federal, State, Tribal, and local government and private entities in each National Heritage Area to determine the impact of the investments; and

(3) review the management structure, partnership relationships, and funding of the National Heritage Area for purposes of identifying the critical components for sustainability of the National Heritage Area.

(c) REPORT.—Based on the evaluation conducted under subsection (a)(1), the Secretary shall submit a report to the Committee on Natural Resources of the United States House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate. The report shall include recommendations for the future role of the National Park Service, if any, with respect to the National Heritage Area.

Subtitle E—Technical Corrections and Additions**SEC. 471. NATIONAL COAL HERITAGE AREA TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.**

Title I of Division II of the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-333 as amended by Public Law 106-176 and Public Law 109-338) is amended—

(1) by striking section 103(b) and inserting the following:

“(b) BOUNDARIES.—The National Coal Heritage Area shall be comprised of Lincoln County, West Virginia, and Paint Creek and

Cabin Creek within Kanawah County, West Virginia, and the counties that are the subject of the study by the National Park Service, dated 1993, entitled 'A Coal Mining Heritage Study: Southern West Virginia' conducted pursuant to title VI of Public Law 100-699."

(2) by striking section 105 and inserting the following:

"SEC. 105. ELIGIBLE RESOURCES.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—The resources eligible for the assistance under section 104 shall include—

"(1) resources in Lincoln County, West Virginia, and Paint Creek and Cabin Creek in Kanawah County, West Virginia, as determined to be appropriate by the National Coal Heritage Area Authority; and

"(2) the resources set forth in appendix D of the study by the National Park Service, dated 1993, entitled 'A Coal Mining Heritage Study: Southern West Virginia' conducted pursuant to title VI of Public Law 100-699.

"(b) PRIORITY.—Priority consideration shall be given to those sites listed as 'Conservation Priorities' and 'Important Historic Resources' as depicted on the map entitled 'Study Area: Historic Resources' in such study."

(3) in section 106(a)—

(A) by striking "Governor" and all that follows through "Parks," and inserting "National Coal Heritage Area Authority"; and

(B) in paragraph (3), by striking "State of West Virginia" and all that follows through "entities, or" and inserting "National Coal Heritage Area Authority or"; and

(4) in section 106(b), by inserting "not" before "meet".

SEC. 472. RIVERS OF STEEL NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA ADDITION.

Section 403(b) of title IV of Division II of the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-333) is amended by inserting "Butler," after "Beaver,".

SEC. 473. SOUTH CAROLINA NATIONAL HERITAGE CORRIDOR ADDITION.

Section 604(b)(2) of title VI of Division II of the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996 is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraphs:

"(O) Berkeley County.

"(P) Saluda County.

"(Q) The portion of Georgetown County that is not part of the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor."

SEC. 474. OHIO AND ERIE CANAL NATIONAL HERITAGE CORRIDOR TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.

Title VIII of Division II of the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-333) is amended—

(1) by striking "Canal National Heritage Corridor" each place it appears and inserting "National Heritage Canalway";

(2) by striking "corridor" each place it appears and inserting "canalway", except in references to the feasibility study and management plan;

(3) in the heading of section 808(a)(3), by striking "CORRIDOR" and inserting "CANALWAY";

(4) in the title heading, by striking "CANAL NATIONAL HERITAGE CORRIDOR" and inserting "NATIONAL HERITAGE CANALWAY";

(5) in section 803—

(A) by striking paragraph (2);

(B) by redesignating paragraphs (3), (4), (5), (6), and (7) as paragraphs (2), (3), (4), (5), and (6), respectively;

(C) in paragraph (2) (as redesignated by subparagraph (B)), by striking "808" and inserting "806"; and

(D) in paragraph (6) (as redesignated by subparagraph (B)), by striking "807(a)" and inserting "805(a)";

(6) in the heading of section 804, by striking "CANAL NATIONAL HERITAGE CORRIDOR" and inserting "NATIONAL HERITAGE CANALWAY";

(7) in the second sentence of section 804(b)(1), by striking "808" and inserting "806";

(8) by striking sections 805 and 806;

(9) by redesignating sections 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, and 812 as sections 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, and 810, respectively;

(10) in section 805(c)(2) (as redesignated by paragraph (9)), by striking "808" and inserting "806";

(11) in section 806 (as redesignated by paragraph (9))—

(A) in subsection (a)(1), by striking "Committee" and inserting "Secretary";

(B) in the heading of subsection (a)(1), by striking "COMMITTEE" and inserting "SECRETARY";

(C) in subsection (a)(3), in the first sentence of subparagraph (B), by striking "Committee" and inserting "management entity";

(D) in subsection (e), by striking "807(d)(1)" and inserting "805(d)(1)"; and

(E) in subsection (f), by striking "807(d)(1)" and inserting "805(d)(1)";

(12) in section 807 (as redesignated by paragraph (9)), in subsection (c) by striking "Cayohoga Valley National Recreation Area" and inserting "Cayohoga Valley National Park";

(13) in section 808 (as redesignated by paragraph (9))—

(A) in subsection (b), by striking "Committee or"; and

(B) in subsection (c), in the matter before paragraph (1), by striking "Committee" and inserting "management entity"; and

(14) in section 809 (as redesignated by paragraph (9)), by striking "assistance" and inserting "financial assistance".

SEC. 475. NEW JERSEY COASTAL HERITAGE TRAIL ROUTE EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATION.

Section 6 of Public Law 100-515 (16 U.S.C. 1244 note) is amended as follows:

(1) Strike paragraph (1) of subsection (b) and insert the following new paragraph:

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Amounts made available under subsection (a) shall be used only for—

"(A) technical assistance;

"(B) the design and fabrication of interpretive materials, devices, and signs; and

"(C) the preparation of the strategic plan."

(2) Paragraph (3) of subsection (b) is amended by inserting after subparagraph (B) a new subparagraph as follows:

"(C) Notwithstanding paragraph (3)(A), funds made available under subsection (a) for the preparation of the strategic plan shall not require a non-Federal match."

(3) Subsection (c) is amended by striking "2007" and inserting "2011".

Subtitle F—Studies

SEC. 481. COLUMBIA-PACIFIC NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA STUDY.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

(2) STUDY AREA.—The term "study area" means—

(A) the coastal areas of Clatsop and Pacific Counties (also known as the North Beach Peninsula); and

(B) areas relating to Native American history, local history, Euro-American settlement culture, and related economic activities of the Columbia River within a corridor along the Columbia River eastward in Clatsop, Pacific, Columbia, and Wahkiakum Counties.

(b) COLUMBIA-PACIFIC NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA STUDY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation with the managers of any Federal

land within the study area, appropriate State and local governmental agencies, tribal governments, and any interested organizations, shall conduct a study to determine the feasibility of designating the study area as the Columbia-Pacific National Heritage Area.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The study shall include analysis, documentation, and determinations on whether the study area—

(A) has an assemblage of natural, historic, and cultural resources that together represent distinctive aspects of American heritage worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation, and continuing use, and are best managed through partnerships among public and private entities and by combining diverse and sometimes noncontiguous resources and active communities;

(B) reflects traditions, customs, beliefs, and folklore that are a valuable part of the national story;

(C) provides outstanding opportunities to conserve natural, historic, cultural, or scenic features;

(D) provides outstanding recreational and educational opportunities;

(E) contains resources important to the identified theme or themes of the study area that retain a degree of integrity capable of supporting interpretation;

(F) includes residents, business interests, nonprofit organizations, and local and State governments that are involved in the planning, have developed a conceptual financial plan that outlines the roles for all participants, including the Federal Government, and have demonstrated support for the concept of a national heritage area;

(G) has a potential local coordinating entity to work in partnership with residents, business interests, nonprofit organizations, and local and State governments to develop a national heritage area consistent with continued local and State economic activity; and

(H) has a conceptual boundary map that is supported by the public.

(3) PRIVATE PROPERTY.—In conducting the study required by this subsection, the Secretary shall analyze the potential impact that designation of the area as a national heritage area is likely to have on land within the proposed area or bordering the proposed area that is privately owned at the time that the study is conducted.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 3 fiscal years after the date on which funds are made available to carry out the study, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a report that describes the findings, conclusions, and recommendations of the Secretary with respect to the study.

SEC. 482. STUDY OF SITES RELATING TO ABRAHAM LINCOLN IN KENTUCKY.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) HERITAGE AREA.—The term "Heritage Area" means a National Heritage Area in the State to honor Abraham Lincoln.

(2) STATE.—The term "State" means the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

(3) STUDY AREA.—The term "study area" means the study area described in subsection (b)(2).

(b) STUDY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Kentucky Historical Society, other State historical societies, the State Historic Preservation Officer, State tourism offices, and other appropriate organizations and agencies, shall conduct a study to assess the suitability and feasibility of designating the study area as a National Heritage Area in the State to honor Abraham Lincoln.

(2) DESCRIPTION OF STUDY AREA.—The study area shall include—

(A) Boyle, Breckinridge, Fayette, Franklin, Hardin, Jefferson, Jessamine, Larue, Madison, Mercer, and Washington Counties in the State; and

(B) the following sites in the State:

(i) The Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site.

(ii) The Abraham Lincoln Boyhood Home Unit.

(iii) Downtown Hodgenville, Kentucky, including the Lincoln Museum and Adolph A. Weinman statue.

(iv) Lincoln Homestead State Park and Mordecai Lincoln House.

(v) Camp Nelson Heritage Park.

(vi) Farmington Historic Home.

(vii) The Mary Todd Lincoln House.

(viii) Ashland, which is the Henry Clay Estate.

(ix) The Old State Capitol.

(x) The Kentucky Military History Museum.

(xi) The Thomas D. Clark Center for Kentucky History.

(xii) The New State Capitol.

(xiii) Whitehall.

(xiv) Perryville Battlefield State Historic Site.

(xv) The Joseph Holt House.

(xvi) Elizabethtown, Kentucky, including the Lincoln Heritage House.

(xvii) Lincoln Marriage Temple at Fort Harrod.

(3) REQUIREMENTS.—The study shall include analysis, documentation, and determinations on whether the study area—

(A) has an assemblage of natural, historic, and cultural resources that—

(i) interpret—

(I) the life of Abraham Lincoln; and

(II) the contributions of Abraham Lincoln to the United States;

(ii) represent distinctive aspects of the heritage of the United States;

(iii) are worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation, and continuing use; and

(iv) would be best managed—

(I) through partnerships among public and private entities; and

(II) by linking diverse and sometimes non-contiguous resources and active communities;

(B) reflects traditions, customs, beliefs, and historical events that are a valuable part of the story of the United States;

(C) provides—

(i) outstanding opportunities to conserve natural, historic, cultural, or scenic features; and

(ii) outstanding educational opportunities;

(D) contains resources that—

(i) are important to any identified themes of the study area; and

(ii) retain a degree of integrity capable of supporting interpretation;

(E) includes residents, business interests, nonprofit organizations, and State and local governments that—

(i) are involved in the planning of the Heritage Area;

(ii) have developed a conceptual financial plan that outlines the roles of all participants in the Heritage Area, including the Federal Government; and

(iii) have demonstrated support for designation of the Heritage Area;

(F) has a potential management entity to work in partnership with the individuals and entities described in subparagraph (E) to develop the Heritage Area while encouraging State and local economic activity; and

(G) has a conceptual boundary map that is supported by the public.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than the third fiscal year after the date on which funds are first made available to carry out this section, the

Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report that describes—

(1) the findings of the study; and

(2) any conclusions and recommendations of the Secretary.

TITLE V—BUREAU OF RECLAMATION AND UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY AUTHORIZATIONS

SEC. 501. ALASKA WATER RESOURCES STUDY.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(2) STATE.—The term “State” means the State of Alaska.

(b) ALASKA WATER RESOURCES STUDY.—

(1) STUDY.—The Secretary, acting through the Commissioner of Reclamation and the Director of the United States Geological Survey, where appropriate, and in accordance with this section and other applicable provisions of law, shall conduct a study that includes—

(A) a survey of accessible water supplies, including aquifers, on the Kenai Peninsula and in the Municipality of Anchorage, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, the city of Fairbanks, and the Fairbanks Northstar Borough;

(B) a survey of water treatment needs and technologies, including desalination, applicable to the water resources of the State; and

(C) a review of the need for enhancement of the streamflow information collected by the United States Geological Survey in the State relating to critical water needs in areas such as—

(i) infrastructure risks to State transportation;

(ii) flood forecasting;

(iii) resource extraction; and

(iv) fire management.

(2) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report describing the results of the study required by paragraph (1).

(c) SUNSET.—The authority of the Secretary to carry out any provisions of this section shall terminate 10 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this section.

SEC. 502. RENEGOTIATION OF PAYMENT SCHEDULE, REDWOOD VALLEY COUNTY WATER DISTRICT.

Section 15 of Public Law 100-516 (102 Stat. 2573) is amended—

(1) by amending paragraph (2) of subsection (a) to read as follows:

“(2) If, as of January 1, 2006, the Secretary of the Interior and the Redwood Valley County Water District have not renegotiated the schedule of payment, the District may enter into such additional non-Federal obligations as are necessary to finance procurement of dedicated water rights and improvements necessary to store and convey those rights to provide for the District’s water needs. The Secretary shall reschedule the payments due under loans numbered 14-06-200-8423A and 14-06-200-8423A Amendatory and said payments shall commence when such additional obligations have been financially satisfied by the District. The date of the initial payment owed by the District to the United States shall be regarded as the start of the District’s repayment period and the time upon which any interest shall first

be computed and assessed under section 5 of the Small Reclamation Projects Act of 1956 (43 U.S.C. 422a et seq.); and

(2) by striking subsection (c).

SEC. 503. AMERICAN RIVER PUMP STATION PROJECT TRANSFER.

(a) AUTHORITY TO TRANSFER.—The Secretary of the Interior (hereafter in this section referred to as the “Secretary”) shall transfer ownership of the American River Pump Station Project located at Auburn, California, which includes the Pumping Plant, associated facilities, and easements necessary for permanent operation of the facilities, to the Placer County Water Agency, in accordance with the terms of Contract No. 02-LC-20-7790 between the United States and Placer County Water Agency and the terms and conditions established in this section.

(b) FEDERAL COSTS NONREIMBURSABLE.—Federal costs associated with construction of the American River Pump Station Project located at Auburn, California, are non-reimbursable.

(c) GRANT OF REAL PROPERTY INTEREST.—The Secretary is authorized to grant title to Placer County Water Agency as provided in subsection (a) in full satisfaction of the United States’ obligations under Land Purchase Contract 14-06-859-308 to provide a water supply to the Placer County Water Agency.

(d) COMPLIANCE WITH ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Before conveying land and facilities pursuant to this section, the Secretary shall comply with all applicable requirements under—

(A) the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.);

(B) the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.); and

(C) any other law applicable to the land and facilities.

(2) EFFECT.—Nothing in this section modifies or alters any obligations under—

(A) the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.); or

(B) the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

(e) RELEASE FROM LIABILITY.—Effective on the date of transfer to the Placer County Water Agency of any land or facility under this section, the United States shall not be liable for damages arising out of any act, omission, or occurrence relating to the land and facilities, consistent with Article 9 of Contract No. 02-LC-20-7790 between the United States and Placer County Water Agency.

SEC. 504. ARTHUR V. WATKINS DAM ENLARGEMENT.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) Arthur V. Watkins Dam is a feature of the Weber Basin Project, which was authorized by law on August 29, 1949.

(2) Increasing the height of Arthur V. Watkins Dam and construction of pertinent facilities may provide additional storage capacity for the development of additional water supply for the Weber Basin Project for uses of municipal and industrial water supply, flood control, fish and wildlife, and recreation.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF FEASIBILITY STUDY.—The Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Reclamation, is authorized to conduct a feasibility study on raising the height of Arthur V. Watkins Dam for the development of additional storage to meet water supply needs within the Weber Basin Project area and the Wasatch Front. The feasibility study shall include such environmental evaluation as required under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) and a cost allocation

as required under the Reclamation Project Act of 1939 (43 U.S.C. 485 et seq.).

(c) **COST SHARES.**—

(1) **FEDERAL SHARE.**—The Federal share of the costs of the study authorized in subsection (b) shall not exceed 50 percent of the total cost of the study.

(2) **IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS.**—The Secretary shall accept, as appropriate, in-kind contributions of goods or services from the Weber Basin Water Conservancy District. Such goods and services accepted under this subsection shall be counted as part of the non-Federal cost share for the study.

(d) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary \$1,000,000 for the Federal cost share of the study authorized in subsection (b).

(e) **SUNSET.**—The authority of the Secretary to carry out any provisions of this section shall terminate 10 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 505. NEW MEXICO WATER PLANNING ASSISTANCE.

(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Reclamation and the United States Geological Survey.

(2) **STATE.**—The term “State” means the State of New Mexico.

(b) **COMPREHENSIVE WATER PLAN ASSISTANCE.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Upon the request of the Governor of the State and subject to paragraphs (2) through (6), the Secretary shall—

(A) provide to the State technical assistance and grants for the development of comprehensive State water plans;

(B) conduct water resources mapping in the State; and

(C) conduct a comprehensive study of groundwater resources (including potable, brackish, and saline water resources) in the State to assess the quantity, quality, and interaction of groundwater and surface water resources.

(2) **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.**—Technical assistance provided under paragraph (1) may include—

(A) acquisition of hydrologic data, groundwater characterization, database development, and data distribution;

(B) expansion of climate, surface water, and groundwater monitoring networks;

(C) assessment of existing water resources, surface water storage, and groundwater storage potential;

(D) numerical analysis and modeling necessary to provide an integrated understanding of water resources and water management options;

(E) participation in State planning forums and planning groups;

(F) coordination of Federal water management planning efforts;

(G) technical review of data, models, planning scenarios, and water plans developed by the State; and

(H) provision of scientific and technical specialists to support State and local activities.

(3) **ALLOCATION.**—In providing grants under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall, subject to the availability of appropriations, allocate—

(A) \$5,000,000 to develop hydrologic models and acquire associated equipment for the New Mexico Rio Grande main stem sections and Rios Pueblo de Taos and Hondo, Rios Nambe, Pojoaque and Teseque, Rio Chama, and Lower Rio Grande tributaries;

(B) \$1,500,000 to complete the hydrographic survey development of hydrologic models and acquire associated equipment for the San Juan River and tributaries;

(C) \$1,000,000 to complete the hydrographic survey development of hydrologic models

and acquire associated equipment for Southwest New Mexico, including the Animas Basin, the Gila River, and tributaries;

(D) \$4,500,000 for statewide digital orthophotography mapping; and

(E) such sums as are necessary to carry out additional projects consistent with paragraph (2).

(4) **COST-SHARING REQUIREMENT.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The non-Federal share of the total cost of any activity carried out using a grant provided under paragraph (1) shall be 50 percent.

(B) **FORM OF NON-FEDERAL SHARE.**—The non-Federal share under subparagraph (A) may be in the form of any in-kind services that the Secretary determines would contribute substantially toward the conduct and completion of the activity assisted.

(5) **NONREIMBURSABLE BASIS.**—Any assistance or grants provided to the State under this section shall be made on a non-reimbursable basis.

(6) **AUTHORIZED TRANSFERS.**—On request of the State, the Secretary shall directly transfer to 1 or more Federal agencies any amounts made available to the State to carry out this section.

(c) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$3,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012.

(d) **SUNSET OF AUTHORITY.**—The authority of the Secretary to carry out any provisions of this section shall terminate 10 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 506. CONVEYANCE OF CERTAIN BUILDINGS AND LANDS OF THE YAKIMA PROJECT, WASHINGTON.

(a) **CONVEYANCE REQUIRED.**—The Secretary of the Interior shall convey to the Yakima-Tieton Irrigation District, located in Yakima County, Washington, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the buildings and lands of the Yakima Project, Washington, in accordance with the terms and conditions set forth in the agreement titled “Agreement Between the United States and the Yakima-Tieton Irrigation District to Transfer Title to Certain Federally Owned Buildings and Lands, With Certain Property Rights, Title, and Interest, to the Yakima-Tieton Irrigation District” (Contract No. 5-07-10-L1658).

(b) **LIABILITY.**—Effective upon the date of conveyance under this section, the United States shall not be held liable by any court for damages of any kind arising out of any act, omission, or occurrence relating to the conveyed buildings and lands, except for damages caused by acts of negligence committed by the United States or by its employees or agents before the date of conveyance. Nothing in this section increases the liability of the United States beyond that provided in chapter 171 of title 28, United States Code (popularly known as the Federal Tort Claims Act), on the date of enactment of this Act.

(c) **BENEFITS.**—After conveyance of the buildings and lands to the Yakima-Tieton Irrigation District under this section—

(1) such buildings and lands shall not be considered to be a part of a Federal reclamation project; and

(2) such irrigation district shall not be eligible to receive any benefits with respect to any buildings and lands conveyed, except benefits that would be available to a similarly situated person with respect to such buildings and lands that are not part of a Federal reclamation project.

(d) **REPORT.**—If the Secretary of the Interior has not completed the conveyance required under subsection (a) within 12 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report that explains the reason such conveyance

has not been completed and stating the date by which the conveyance will be completed.

SEC. 507. CONJUNCTIVE USE OF SURFACE AND GROUNDWATER IN JUAB COUNTY, UTAH.

Section 202(a)(2) of the Reclamation Projects Authorization and Adjustment Act of 1992 (Public Law 102-575) is amended by inserting “Juab,” after “Davis.”

SEC. 508. EARLY REPAYMENT OF A & B IRRIGATION DISTRICT CONSTRUCTION COSTS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding section 213 of the Reclamation Reform Act of 1982 (43 U.S.C. 390mm), any landowner within the A & B Irrigation District in the State (referred to in this section as the “District”) may repay, at any time, the construction costs of District project facilities that are allocated to land of the landowner within the District.

(b) **APPLICABILITY OF FULL-COST PRICING LIMITATIONS.**—On discharge, in full, of the obligation for repayment of all construction costs described in subsection (a) that are allocated to all land the landowner owns in the District in question, the parcels of land shall not be subject to the ownership and full-cost pricing limitations under Federal reclamation law (the Act of June 17, 1902 (32 Stat. 388, chapter 1093), and Acts supplemental to and amendatory of that Act (43 U.S.C. 371 et seq.), including the Reclamation Reform Act of 1982 (13 U.S.C. 390aa et seq.)).

(c) **CERTIFICATION.**—On request of a landowner that has repaid, in full, the construction costs described in subsection (a), the Secretary of the Interior shall provide to the landowner a certificate described in section 213(b)(1) of the Reclamation Reform Act of 1982 (43 U.S.C. 390mm(b)(1)).

(d) **EFFECT.**—Nothing in this section—

(1) modifies any contractual rights under, or amends or reopens, the reclamation contract between the District and the United States; or

(2) modifies any rights, obligations, or relationships between the District and landowners in the District under Idaho State law.

SEC. 509. OREGON WATER RESOURCES.

(a) **EXTENSION OF PARTICIPATION OF BUREAU OF RECLAMATION IN DESCHUTES RIVER CONSERVANCY.**—Section 301 of the Oregon Resource Conservation Act of 1996 (division B of Public Law 104-208; 110 Stat. 3009-534) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1), by striking “Deschutes River Basin Working Group” and inserting “Deschutes River Conservancy Working Group”; and

(2) by amending the text of subsection (a)(1)(B) to read as follows: “4 representatives of private interests including two from irrigated agriculture who actively farm more than 100 acres of irrigated land and are not irrigation district managers and two from the environmental community;”;

(3) in subsection (b)(3), by inserting before the final period the following: “, and up to a total amount of \$2,000,000 during each of fiscal years 2007 through 2016”; and

(4) in subsection (h), by inserting before the period at the end the following: “, and \$2,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2007 through 2016”.

(b) **WALLOWA LAKE DAM REHABILITATION ACT.**—

(1) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this subsection:

(A) **ASSOCIATED DITCH COMPANIES, INCORPORATED.**—The term “Associated Ditch Companies, Incorporated” means the nonprofit corporation established under the laws of the State of Oregon that operates Wallowa Lake Dam.

(B) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Commissioner of Reclamation.

(C) **WALLOWA LAKE DAM REHABILITATION PROGRAM.**—The term “Wallowa Lake Dam Rehabilitation Program” means the program for the rehabilitation of the Wallowa Lake Dam in Oregon, as contained in the engineering document titled, “Phase I Dam Assessment and Preliminary Engineering Design”, dated December 2002, and on file with the Bureau of Reclamation.

(2) **AUTHORIZATION TO PARTICIPATE IN PROGRAM.**—

(A) **GRANTS AND COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.**—The Secretary may provide grants to, or enter into cooperative or other agreements with, tribal, State, and local governmental entities and the Associated Ditch Companies, Incorporated, to plan, design, and construct facilities needed to implement the Wallowa Lake Dam Rehabilitation Program.

(B) **CONDITIONS.**—As a condition of providing funds under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall ensure that—

(i) the Wallowa Lake Dam Rehabilitation Program and activities under this section meet the standards of the dam safety program of the State of Oregon;

(ii) the Associated Ditch Companies, Incorporated, agrees to assume liability for any work performed, or supervised, with Federal funds provided to it under this subsection; and

(iii) the United States shall not be liable for damages of any kind arising out of any act, omission, or occurrence relating to a facility rehabilitated or constructed with Federal funds provided under this subsection, both while and after activities are conducted using Federal funds provided under this subsection.

(C) **COST SHARING.**—

(i) **IN GENERAL.**—The Federal share of the costs of activities authorized under this subsection shall not exceed 50 percent.

(ii) **EXCLUSIONS FROM FEDERAL SHARE.**—There shall not be credited against the Federal share of such costs—

(I) any expenditure by the Bonneville Power Administration in the Wallowa River watershed; and

(II) expenditures made by individual agricultural producers in any Federal commodity or conservation program.

(D) **COMPLIANCE WITH STATE LAW.**—The Secretary, in carrying out this subsection, shall comply with applicable Oregon State water law.

(E) **PROHIBITION ON HOLDING TITLE.**—The Federal Government shall not hold title to any facility rehabilitated or constructed under this subsection.

(F) **PROHIBITION ON OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE.**—The Federal Government shall not be responsible for the operation and maintenance of any facility constructed or rehabilitated under this subsection.

(3) **RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER LAW.**—Activities funded under this subsection shall not be considered a supplemental or additional benefit under Federal reclamation law (the Act of June 17, 1902 (32 Stat. 388, chapter 1093), and Acts supplemental to and amendatory of that Act (43 U.S.C. 371 et seq.)).

(4) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to pay the Federal share of the costs of activities authorized under this subsection \$6,000,000.

(5) **SUNSET.**—The authority of the Secretary to carry out any provisions of this subsection shall terminate 10 years after the date of the enactment of this subsection.

(C) **LITTLE BUTTE/BEAR CREEK SUBBASINS, OREGON, WATER RESOURCE STUDY.**—

(1) **AUTHORIZATION.**—The Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Reclamation, may participate in the Water for Irrigation, Streams and the Economy

Project water management feasibility study and environmental impact statement in accordance with the “Memorandum of Agreement Between City of Medford and Bureau of Reclamation for the Water for Irrigation, Streams, and the Economy Project”, dated July 2, 2004.

(2) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Bureau of Reclamation \$500,000 to carry out activities under this subsection.

(B) **NON-FEDERAL SHARE.**—

(i) **IN GENERAL.**—The non-Federal share shall be 50 percent of the total costs of the Bureau of Reclamation in carrying out paragraph (1).

(ii) **FORM.**—The non-Federal share required under clause (i) may be in the form of any in-kind services that the Secretary of the Interior determines would contribute substantially toward the conduct and completion of the study and environmental impact statement required under paragraph (1).

(3) **SUNSET.**—The authority of the Secretary to carry out any provisions of this subsection shall terminate 10 years after the date of the enactment of this section.

(d) **NORTH UNIT IRRIGATION DISTRICT.**—The Act of August 10, 1954 (68 Stat. 679, chapter 663), is amended—

(1) in the first section—

(A) by inserting “(referred to in this Act as the ‘District’)” after “‘irrigation district’”; and

(B) by inserting “(referred to in this Act as the ‘Contract’)” after “‘1953’”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“**SEC. 3. ADDITIONAL TERMS.**

“On approval of the District directors and notwithstanding project authorizing legislation to the contrary, the Contract is modified, without further action by the Secretary of the Interior, to include the following modifications:

“(1) In Article 8(a) of the Contract, by deleting ‘a maximum of 50,000’ and inserting ‘approximately 59,000’ after ‘irrigation service to’.

“(2) In Article 11(a) of the Contract, by deleting ‘The classified irrigable lands within the project comprise 49,817.75 irrigable acres, of which 35,773.75 acres are in Class A and 14,044.40 in Class B. These lands and the standards upon which the classification was made are described in the document entitled ‘Land Classification, North Unit, Deschutes Project, 1953’ which is on file in the office of the Regional Director, Bureau of Reclamation, Boise, Idaho, and in the office of the District’ and inserting ‘The classified irrigable land within the project comprises 58,902.8 irrigable acres, all of which are authorized to receive irrigation water pursuant to water rights issued by the State of Oregon and have in the past received water pursuant to such State water rights.’

“(3) In Article 11(c) of the Contract, by deleting ‘, with the approval of the Secretary,’ after ‘District may’, by deleting ‘the 49,817.75 acre maximum limit on the irrigable area is not exceeded’ and inserting ‘irrigation service is provided to no more than approximately 59,000 acres and no amendment to the District boundary is required’ after ‘time so long as’.

“(4) In Article 11(d) of the Contract, by inserting ‘, and may further be used for instream purposes, including fish or wildlife purposes, to the extent that such use is required by Oregon State law in order for the District to engage in, or take advantage of, conserved water projects as authorized by Oregon State law’ after ‘herein provided’.

“(5) By adding at the end of Article 12(d) the following: ‘(e) Notwithstanding the above subsections of this Article or Article 13

below, beginning with the irrigation season immediately following the date of enactment of the National Forests, Parks, Public Land, and Reclamation Projects Authorization Act of 2007, the annual installment for each year, for the District, under the Contract, on account of the District’s construction charge obligation, shall be a fixed and equal annual amount payable on June 30 the year following the year for which it is applicable, such that the District’s total construction charge obligation shall be completely paid by June 30, 2044.’

“(6) In Article 14(a) of the Contract, by inserting ‘and for instream purposes, including fish or wildlife purposes, to the extent that such use is required by Oregon State law in order for the District to engage in, or take advantage of, conserved water projects as authorized by Oregon State law,’ after ‘and incidental stock and domestic uses’, by inserting ‘and for instream purposes as described above,’ after ‘irrigation, stock and domestic uses’, and by inserting ‘, including natural flow rights out of the Crooked River held by the District’ after ‘irrigation system’.

“(7) In Article 29(a) of the Contract, by inserting ‘and for instream purposes, including fish or wildlife purposes, to the extent that such use is required by Oregon State law in order for the District to engage in, or take advantage of, conserved water projects as authorized by Oregon State law’ after ‘provided in article 11’.

“(8) In Article 34 of the Contract, by deleting ‘The District, after the election and upon the execution of this contract, shall promptly secure final decree of the proper State court approving and confirming this contract and decreeing and adjudging it to be a lawful, valid, and binding general obligation of the District. The District shall furnish to the United States certified copies of such decrees and of all pertinent supporting records.’ after ‘for that purpose’.

“**SEC. 4. FUTURE AUTHORITY TO RENEGOTIATE.**

“The Secretary of the Interior (acting through the Commissioner of Reclamation) may in the future renegotiate with the District such terms of the Contract as the District directors determine to be necessary, only upon the written request of the District directors and the consent of the Commissioner of Reclamation.”

SEC. 510. REPUBLICAN RIVER BASIN FEASIBILITY STUDY.

(a) **AUTHORIZATION OF STUDY.**—Pursuant to reclamation laws, the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Reclamation and in consultation and cooperation with the States of Nebraska, Kansas, and Colorado, may conduct a study to—

(1) determine the feasibility of implementing a water supply and conservation project that will—

(A) improve water supply reliability in the Republican River Basin between Harlan County Lake in Nebraska and Milford Lake in Kansas, including areas in the counties of Harlan, Franklin, Webster, and Nuckolls in Nebraska and Jewel, Republic, Cloud, Washington, and Clay in Kansas (in this section referred to as the “Republican River Basin”);

(B) increase the capacity of water storage through modifications of existing projects or through new projects that serve areas in the Republican River Basin; and

(C) improve water management efficiency in the Republican River Basin through conservation and other available means and, where appropriate, evaluate integrated water resource management and supply needs in the Republican River Basin; and

(2) consider appropriate cost-sharing options for implementation of the project.

(b) **COST SHARING.**—The Federal share of the cost of the study shall not exceed 50 percent of the total cost of the study, and shall be nonreimbursable.

(c) **COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.**—The Secretary shall undertake the study through cooperative agreements with the State of Kansas or Nebraska and other appropriate entities determined by the Secretary.

(d) **COMPLETION AND REPORT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in paragraph (2), not later than 3 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall complete the study and transmit to the Congress a report containing the results of the study.

(2) **EXTENSION.**—If the Secretary determines that the study cannot be completed within the 3-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary—

(A) shall, at the time of that determination, report to the Congress on the status of the study, including an estimate of the date of completion; and

(B) complete the study and transmit to the Congress a report containing the results of the study by not later than that date.

(e) **SUNSET OF AUTHORITY.**—The authority of the Secretary to carry out any provisions of this section shall terminate 10 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 511. EASTERN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act (43 U.S.C. 390h et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 1639. EASTERN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT RECYCLED WATER SYSTEM PRESSURIZATION AND EXPANSION PROJECT, CALIFORNIA.

“(a) **AUTHORIZATION.**—The Secretary, in cooperation with the Eastern Municipal Water District, California, may participate in the design, planning, and construction of permanent facilities needed to establish operational pressure zones that will be used to provide recycled water in the district.

“(b) **COST SHARING.**—The Federal share of the cost of the project described in subsection (a) shall not exceed 25 percent of the total cost of the project.

“(c) **LIMITATION.**—Funds provided by the Secretary shall not be used for operation or maintenance of the project described in subsection (a).

“(d) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$12,000,000.

“(e) **SUNSET OF AUTHORITY.**—The authority of the Secretary to carry out any provisions of this section shall terminate 10 years after the date of enactment of this section.”.

(b) **CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—The table of sections in section 2 of the Reclamation Projects Authorization and Adjustment Act of 1992 (43 U.S.C. prec. 371) is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 1638 the following:

“Sec. 1639. Eastern Municipal Water District Recycled Water System Pressurization and Expansion Project, California.”.

SEC. 512. BAY AREA REGIONAL WATER RECYCLING PROGRAM.

(a) **PROJECT AUTHORIZATIONS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act (43 U.S.C. 390h et seq.) (as amended by section 512(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 1642. MOUNTAIN VIEW, MOFFETT AREA RECLAIMED WATER PIPELINE PROJECT.

“(a) **AUTHORIZATION.**—The Secretary, in cooperation with the City of Palo Alto, California, and the City of Mountain View, Cali-

fornia, is authorized to participate in the design, planning, and construction of recycled water distribution systems.

“(b) **COST SHARE.**—The Federal share of the cost of the project authorized by this section shall not exceed 25 percent of the total cost of the project.

“(c) **LIMITATION.**—The Secretary shall not provide funds for the operation and maintenance of the project authorized by this section.

“(d) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$5,000,000.

“SEC. 1643. PITTSBURG RECYCLED WATER PROJECT.

“(a) **AUTHORIZATION.**—The Secretary, in cooperation with the City of Pittsburg, California, and the Delta Diablo Sanitation District, is authorized to participate in the design, planning, and construction of recycled water system facilities.

“(b) **COST SHARE.**—The Federal share of the cost of the project authorized by this section shall not exceed 25 percent of the total cost of the project.

“(c) **LIMITATION.**—The Secretary shall not provide funds for the operation and maintenance of the project authorized by this section.

“(d) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$1,750,000.

“SEC. 1644. ANTIOCH RECYCLED WATER PROJECT.

“(a) **AUTHORIZATION.**—The Secretary, in cooperation with the City of Antioch, California, and the Delta Diablo Sanitation District, is authorized to participate in the design, planning, and construction of recycled water system facilities.

“(b) **COST SHARE.**—The Federal share of the cost of the project authorized by this section shall not exceed 25 percent of the total cost of the project.

“(c) **LIMITATION.**—The Secretary shall not provide funds for the operation and maintenance of the project authorized by this section.

“(d) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$2,250,000.

“SEC. 1645. NORTH COAST COUNTY WATER DISTRICT RECYCLED WATER PROJECT.

“(a) **AUTHORIZATION.**—The Secretary, in cooperation with the North Coast County Water District, is authorized to participate in the design, planning, and construction of recycled water system facilities.

“(b) **COST SHARE.**—The Federal share of the cost of the project authorized by this section shall not exceed 25 percent of the total cost of the project.

“(c) **LIMITATION.**—The Secretary shall not provide funds for the operation and maintenance of the project authorized by this section.

“(d) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$2,500,000.

“SEC. 1646. REDWOOD CITY RECYCLED WATER PROJECT.

“(a) **AUTHORIZATION.**—The Secretary, in cooperation with the City of Redwood City, California, is authorized to participate in the design, planning, and construction of recycled water system facilities.

“(b) **COST SHARE.**—The Federal share of the cost of the project authorized by this section shall not exceed 25 percent of the total cost of the project.

“(c) **LIMITATION.**—The Secretary shall not provide funds for the operation and maintenance of the project authorized by this section.

“(d) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$1,100,000.

“SEC. 1647. SOUTH SANTA CLARA COUNTY RECYCLED WATER PROJECT.

“(a) **AUTHORIZATION.**—The Secretary, in cooperation with the South County Regional Wastewater Authority and the Santa Clara Valley Water District, is authorized to participate in the design, planning, and construction of recycled water system distribution facilities.

“(b) **COST SHARE.**—The Federal share of the cost of the project authorized by this section shall not exceed 25 percent of the total cost of the project.

“(c) **LIMITATION.**—The Secretary shall not provide funds for the operation and maintenance of the project authorized by this section.

“(d) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$7,000,000.

“SEC. 1648. SOUTH BAY ADVANCED RECYCLED WATER TREATMENT FACILITY.

“(a) **AUTHORIZATION.**—The Secretary, in cooperation with the City of San Jose, California, and the Santa Clara Valley Water District, is authorized to participate in the design, planning, and construction of recycled water treatment facilities.

“(b) **COST SHARE.**—The Federal share of the cost of the project authorized by this section shall not exceed 25 percent of the total cost of the project.

“(c) **LIMITATION.**—The Secretary shall not provide funds for the operation and maintenance of the project authorized by this section.

“(d) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$8,250,000.”.

(2) **CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**—The table of sections in section 2 of the Reclamation Projects Authorization and Adjustment Act of 1992 (43 U.S.C. prec. 371) (as amended by section 512(b)) is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 1641 the following:

“Sec. 1642. Mountain View, Moffett Area Reclaimed Water Pipeline Project.

“Sec. 1643. Pittsburg Recycled Water Project.

“Sec. 1644. Antioch Recycled Water Project.

“Sec. 1645. North Coast County Water District Recycled Water Project.

“Sec. 1646. Redwood City Recycled Water Project.

“Sec. 1647. South Santa Clara County Recycled Water Project.

“Sec. 1648. South Bay Advanced Recycled Water Treatment Facility.”.

(b) **SAN JOSE AREA WATER RECLAMATION AND REUSE PROJECT.**—It is the intent of Congress that a comprehensive water recycling program for the San Francisco Bay Area include the San Jose Area water reclamation and reuse program authorized by section 1607 of the Reclamation Projects Authorization and Adjustment Act of 1992 (43 U.S.C. 390h-5).

SEC. 513. BUREAU OF RECLAMATION SITE SECURITY.

(a) **TREATMENT OF CAPITAL COSTS.**—Costs incurred by the Secretary of the Interior for the physical fortification of Bureau of Reclamation facilities to satisfy increased post-September 11, 2001, security needs, including the construction, modification, upgrade, or replacement of such facility fortifications, shall be nonreimbursable.

(b) **TREATMENT OF SECURITY-RELATED OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE COSTS.**—

(1) **REIMBURSABLE COSTS.**—The Secretary of the Interior shall include no more than \$18,900,000 per fiscal year, indexed each fiscal year after fiscal year 2008 according to the preceding year's Consumer Price Index, of those costs incurred for increased levels of guards and patrols, training, patrols by local and tribal law enforcement entities, operation, maintenance, and replacement of

guard and response force equipment, and operation and maintenance of facility fortifications at Bureau of Reclamation facilities after the events of September 11, 2001, as reimbursable operation and maintenance costs under Reclamation law.

(2) **COSTS COLLECTED THROUGH WATER RATES.**—In the case of the Central Valley Project of California, site security costs allocated to irrigation and municipal and industrial water service in accordance with this section shall be collected by the Secretary exclusively through inclusion of these costs in the operation and maintenance water rates.

(c) **TRANSPARENCY AND REPORT TO CONGRESS.**—

(1) **POLICIES AND PROCEDURES.**—The Secretary is authorized to develop policies and procedures with project beneficiaries, consistent with the requirements of paragraphs (2) and (3), to provide for the payment of the reimbursable costs described in subsection (b).

(2) **NOTICE.**—On identifying a Bureau of Reclamation facility for a site security measure, the Secretary shall provide to the project beneficiaries written notice—

(A) describing the need for the site security measure and the process for identifying and implementing the site security measure; and

(B) summarizing the administrative and legal requirements relating to the site security measure.

(3) **CONSULTATION.**—The Secretary shall—

(A) provide project beneficiaries an opportunity to consult with the Bureau of Reclamation on the planning, design, and construction of the site security measure; and

(B) in consultation with project beneficiaries, develop and provide timeframes for the consultation described in subparagraph (A).

(4) **RESPONSE; NOTICE.**—Before incurring costs pursuant to activities described in subsection (b), the Secretary shall consider cost containment measures recommended by a project beneficiary that has elected to consult with the Bureau of Reclamation on such activities. The Secretary shall provide to the project beneficiary—

(A) a timely written response describing proposed actions, if any, to address the recommendation; and

(B) notice regarding the costs and status of such activities on a periodic basis.

(5) **REPORT.**—The Secretary shall report annually to the Natural Resources Committee of the House of Representatives and the Energy and Natural Resources Committee of the Senate on site security actions and activities undertaken pursuant to this Act for each fiscal year. The report shall include a summary of Federal and non-Federal expenditures for the fiscal year and information relating to a 5-year planning horizon for the program, detailed to show pre-September 11, 2001, and post-September 11, 2001, costs for the site security activities.

(d) **PRE-SEPTEMBER 11, 2001 SECURITY COST LEVELS.**—Reclamation project security costs at the levels of activity that existed prior to September 11, 2001, shall remain reimbursable.

SEC. 514. MORE WATER, MORE ENERGY, AND LESS WASTE.

(a) **FINDINGS.**—The Congress finds that—

(1) development of energy resources, including oil, natural gas, coalbed methane, and geothermal resources, frequently results in bringing to the surface water extracted from underground sources;

(2) some of that produced water is used for irrigation or other purposes, but most of the water is returned to the subsurface or otherwise disposed of as waste;

(3) reducing the quantity of produced water returned to the subsurface and increasing the quantity of produced water that is made available for irrigation and other uses—

(A) would augment water supplies;

(B) could reduce the costs to energy developers for disposing of the water; and

(C) in some cases, could increase the efficiency of energy development activities; and

(4) it is in the national interest—

(A) to limit the quantity of produced water disposed of as waste;

(B) to optimize the production of energy resources; and

(C) to remove or reduce obstacles to use of produced water for irrigation or other purposes in ways that will not adversely affect water quality or the environment.

(b) **PURPOSES.**—The purposes of this section are—

(1) to optimize the production of energy resources—

(A) by minimizing the quantity of produced water; and

(B) by facilitating the use of produced water for irrigation and other purposes without adversely affecting water quality or the environment; and

(2) to demonstrate means of accomplishing those results.

(c) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **LOWER BASIN STATE.**—The term “Lower Basin State” means any of the States of—

(A) Arizona;

(B) California; and

(C) Nevada.

(2) **PRODUCED WATER.**—The term “produced water” means water from an underground source that is brought to the surface as part of the process of exploration for, or development of—

(A) oil;

(B) natural gas;

(C) coalbed methane; or

(D) any other substance to be used as an energy source.

(3) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(4) **UPPER BASIN STATE.**—The term “Upper Basin State” means any of the States of—

(A) Colorado;

(B) New Mexico;

(C) Utah; and

(D) Wyoming.

(d) **IDENTIFICATION OF PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS.**—

(1) **STUDY.**—The Secretary shall conduct a study to identify—

(A) the technical, economic, environmental, and other obstacles to reducing the quantity of produced water;

(B) the technical, economic, environmental, legal, and other obstacles to increasing the extent to which produced water can be used for irrigation and other purposes without adversely affecting water quality, public health, or the environment;

(C) the legislative, administrative, and other actions that could reduce or eliminate the obstacles identified in subparagraphs (A) and (B); and

(D) the costs and benefits associated with reducing or eliminating the obstacles identified in subparagraphs (A) and (B).

(2) **REPORT.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report describing the results of the study under paragraph (1).

(e) **IMPLEMENTATION.**—

(1) **GRANTS.**—Subject to the availability of appropriations, the Secretary shall provide financial assistance for the development of facilities, technologies, and processes to

demonstrate the feasibility, effectiveness, and safety of—

(A) optimizing energy resource production by reducing the quantity of produced water generated; or

(B) increasing the extent to which produced water may be recovered and made suitable for use for irrigation, municipal, or industrial uses, or other purposes without adversely affecting water quality or the environment.

(2) **LIMITATIONS.**—Assistance under this subsection—

(A) shall be provided for—

(i) at least 1 project in each of the Upper Basin States; and

(ii) at least 1 project in at least 1 of the Lower Basin States;

(B) shall not exceed \$1,000,000 for any project;

(C) shall be used to pay not more than 50 percent of the total cost of a project;

(D) shall not be used for the operation or maintenance of any facility; and

(E) may be in addition to assistance provided by the Federal Government pursuant to other provisions of law.

(f) **CONSULTATION, ADVICE, AND COMMENTS.**—In carrying out this section, including in preparing the report under subsection (d)(2) and establishing criteria to be used in connection with an award of financial assistance under subsection (e), the Secretary shall—

(1) consult with the Secretary of Energy, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, and appropriate Governors and local officials;

(2)(A) review any relevant information developed in connection with research carried out by others, including research carried out pursuant to subtitle J of title IX of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16371 et seq.); and

(B) to the extent the Secretary determines to be advisable, include that information in the report under subsection (d)(2);

(3) seek the advice of—

(A) individuals with relevant professional or academic expertise; and

(B) individuals or representatives of entities with industrial experience, particularly experience relating to production of oil, natural gas, coalbed methane, or other energy resources (including geothermal resources); and

(4) solicit comments and suggestions from the public.

(g) **RELATION TO OTHER LAWS.**—Nothing in this section supersedes, modifies, abrogates, or limits—

(1) the effect of any State law or any interstate authority or compact relating to—

(A) any use of water; or

(B) the regulation of water quantity or quality; or

(2) the applicability or effect of any Federal law (including regulations).

(h) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There are authorized to be appropriated—

(1) \$1,000,000 to carry out subsection (d); and

(2) \$7,500,000 to carry out subsection (e).

SEC. 515. PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM AND PATH-FINDER MODIFICATION PROJECT AUTHORIZATION.

(a) **PURPOSES.**—The purposes of this section are to authorize—

(1) the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Commissioner of Reclamation and in partnership with the States, other Federal agencies, and other non-Federal entities, to continue the cooperative effort among the Federal and non-Federal entities through the implementation of the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program for threatened and endangered species in the

Central and Lower Platte River Basin without creating Federal water rights or requiring the grant of water rights to Federal entities; and

(2) the modification of the Pathfinder Dam and Reservoir, in accordance with the requirements described in subsection (c).

(b) **PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM.**—

(1) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this subsection:

(A) **AGREEMENT.**—The term “Agreement” means the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program Cooperative Agreement entered into by the Governors of the States and the Secretary.

(B) **FIRST INCREMENT.**—The term “First Increment” means the first 13 years of the Program.

(C) **GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE.**—The term “Governance Committee” means the governance committee established under the Agreement and composed of members from the States, the Federal Government, environmental interests, and water users.

(D) **INTEREST IN LAND OR WATER.**—The term “interest in land or water” includes a fee title, short- or long-term easement, lease, or other contractual arrangement that is determined to be necessary by the Secretary to implement the land and water components of the Program.

(E) **PROGRAM.**—The term “Program” means the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program established under the Agreement.

(F) **PROJECT OR ACTIVITY.**—The term “project or activity” means—

(i) the planning, design, permitting or other compliance activity, preconstruction activity, construction, construction management, operation, maintenance, and replacement of a facility;

(ii) the acquisition of an interest in land or water;

(iii) habitat restoration;

(iv) research and monitoring;

(v) program administration; and

(vi) any other activity that is determined to be necessary by the Secretary to carry out the Program.

(G) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Commissioner of Reclamation.

(H) **STATES.**—The term “States” means the States of Nebraska, Wyoming, and Colorado.

(2) **IMPLEMENTATION OF PROGRAM.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary, in cooperation with the Governance Committee, may—

(i) participate in the Program; and

(ii) carry out any projects and activities that are designated for implementation during the First Increment.

(B) **AUTHORITY OF SECRETARY.**—For purposes of carrying out this section, the Secretary, in cooperation with the Governance Committee, may—

(i) enter into agreements and contracts with Federal and non-Federal entities;

(ii) acquire interests in land, water, and facilities from willing sellers without the use of eminent domain;

(iii) subsequently transfer any interests acquired under clause (ii); and

(iv) accept or provide grants.

(3) **COST-SHARING CONTRIBUTIONS.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—As provided in the Agreement, the States shall contribute not less than 50 percent of the total contributions necessary to carry out the Program.

(B) **NON-FEDERAL CONTRIBUTIONS.**—The following contributions shall constitute the States' share of the Program:

(i) \$30,000,000 in non-Federal funds, with the balance of funds remaining to be contributed to be adjusted for inflation on October 1 of the year after the date of enactment of this Act and each October 1 thereafter.

(ii) Credit for contributions of water or land for the purposes of implementing the Program, as determined to be appropriate by the Secretary.

(C) **IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS.**—The Secretary or the States may elect to provide a portion of the Federal share or non-Federal share, respectively, in the form of in-kind goods or services, if the contribution of goods or services is approved by the Governance Committee, as provided in Attachment 1 of the Agreement.

(4) **AUTHORITY TO MODIFY PROGRAM.**—The Program may be modified or amended before the completion of the First Increment if the Secretary and the States determine that the modifications are consistent with the purposes of the Program.

(5) **EFFECT.**—

(A) **EFFECT ON RECLAMATION LAWS.**—No action carried out under this subsection shall, with respect to the acreage limitation provisions of the reclamation laws—

(i) be considered in determining whether a district (as the term is defined in section 202 of the Reclamation Reform Act of 1982 (43 U.S.C. 390bb)) has discharged the obligation of the district to repay the construction cost of project facilities used to make irrigation water available for delivery to land in the district;

(ii) serve as the basis for reinstating acreage limitation provisions in a district that has completed payment of the construction obligations of the district; or

(iii) serve as the basis for increasing the construction repayment obligation of the district, which would extend the period during which the acreage limitation provisions would apply.

(B) **EFFECT ON WATER RIGHTS.**—Nothing in this section—

(i) creates Federal water rights; or

(ii) requires the grant of water rights to Federal entities.

(6) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out projects and activities under this subsection \$157,140,000, as adjusted under subparagraph (C).

(B) **NONREIMBURSABLE FEDERAL EXPENDITURES.**—Any amounts expended under subparagraph (A) shall be considered to be non-reimbursable Federal expenditures.

(C) **ADJUSTMENT.**—The balance of funds remaining to be appropriated shall be adjusted for inflation on October 1 of the year after the date of enactment of this Act and each October 1 thereafter.

(D) **AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.**—At the end of each fiscal year, any unexpended funds for projects and activities made available under subparagraph (A) shall be retained for use in future fiscal years to implement projects and activities under the Program.

(7) **TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.**—The authority for the Secretary to implement the First Increment shall terminate on September 30, 2020.

(c) **PATHFINDER MODIFICATION PROJECT.**—

(1) **AUTHORIZATION OF PROJECT.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Commissioner of Reclamation (referred to in this subsection as the “Secretary”), may—

(i) modify the Pathfinder Dam and Reservoir; and

(ii) enter into 1 or more agreements with the State of Wyoming to implement the Pathfinder Modification Project (referred to in this subsection as the “Project”), as described in Appendix F to the Final Settlement Stipulation in *Nebraska v. Wyoming*, 534 U.S. 40 (2001).

(B) **FEDERAL APPROPRIATIONS.**—No Federal appropriations are required to modify the Pathfinder Dam under this paragraph.

(2) **AUTHORIZED USES OF PATHFINDER RESERVOIR.**—Provided that all of the conditions described in paragraph (3) are first met, the approximately 54,000 acre-feet capacity of Pathfinder Reservoir, which has been lost to sediment but will be recaptured by the Project, may be used for municipal, environmental, and other purposes, as described in Appendix F to the Final Settlement Stipulation in *Nebraska v. Wyoming*, 534 U.S. 40 (2001).

(3) **CONDITIONS PRECEDENT.**—The actions and water uses authorized in paragraphs (1)(A)(i) and (2) shall not occur until each of the following actions have been completed:

(A) Final approval from the Wyoming legislature for the export of Project water to the State of Nebraska under the laws (including regulations) of the State of Wyoming.

(B) Final approval in a change of water use proceeding under the laws (including regulations) of the State of Wyoming for all new uses planned for Project water. Final approval, as used in this subparagraph, includes exhaustion of any available review under State law of any administrative action authorizing the change of the Pathfinder Reservoir water right.

SEC. 516. CENTRAL OKLAHOMA MASTER CONSERVATORY DISTRICT FEASIBILITY STUDY.

(a) **STUDY.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Commissioner of Reclamation (referred to in this section as the “Secretary”), shall—

(A) conduct a feasibility study of alternatives to augment the water supplies of—

(i) the Central Oklahoma Master Conservatory District (referred to in this section as the “District”); and

(ii) cities served by the District;

(2) **INCLUSIONS.**—The study under paragraph (1) shall include recommendations of the Secretary, if any, relating to the alternatives studied.

(b) **COST-SHARING REQUIREMENT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Federal share of the total costs of the study under subsection (a) shall not exceed 50 percent.

(2) **FORM OF NON-FEDERAL SHARE.**—The non-Federal share required under paragraph (1) may be in the form of any in-kind services that the Secretary determines would contribute substantially toward the conduct and completion of the study.

(c) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to conduct the study under subsection (a) \$900,000.

TITLE VI—DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AUTHORIZATIONS

SEC. 601. ENERGY TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER.

Section 917 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16197) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 917. ADVANCED ENERGY TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER CENTERS.

“(a) **GRANTS.**—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of the National Forests, Parks, Public Land, and Reclamation Projects Authorization Act of 2008, the Secretary shall make grants to nonprofit institutions, State and local governments, cooperative extension services, or institutions of higher education (or consortia thereof), to establish a geographically dispersed network of Advanced Energy Technology Transfer Centers, to be located in areas the Secretary determines have the greatest need of the services of such Centers. In making awards under this section, the Secretary shall—

“(1) give priority to applicants already operating or partnered with an outreach program capable of transferring knowledge and

information about advanced energy efficiency methods and technologies;

“(2) ensure that, to the extent practicable, the program enables the transfer of knowledge and information—

“(A) about a variety of technologies; and

“(B) in a variety of geographic areas;

“(3) give preference to applicants that would significantly expand on or fill a gap in existing programs in a geographical region; and

“(4) consider the special needs and opportunities for increased energy efficiency for manufactured and site-built housing, including construction, renovation, and retrofit.

“(b) ACTIVITIES.—Each Center shall operate a program to encourage demonstration and commercial application of advanced energy methods and technologies through education and outreach to building and industrial professionals, and to other individuals and organizations with an interest in efficient energy use. Funds awarded under this section may be used for the following activities:

“(1) Developing and distributing informational materials on technologies that could use energy more efficiently.

“(2) Carrying out demonstrations of advanced energy methods and technologies.

“(3) Developing and conducting seminars, workshops, long-distance learning sessions, and other activities to aid in the dissemination of knowledge and information on technologies that could use energy more efficiently.

“(4) Providing or coordinating onsite energy evaluations, including instruction on the commissioning of building heating and cooling systems, for a wide range of energy end-users.

“(5) Examining the energy efficiency needs of energy end-users to develop recommended research projects for the Department.

“(6) Hiring experts in energy efficient technologies to carry out activities described in paragraphs (1) through (5).

“(c) APPLICATION.—A person seeking a grant under this section shall submit to the Secretary an application in such form and containing such information as the Secretary may require. The Secretary may award a grant under this section to an entity already in existence if the entity is otherwise eligible under this section. The application shall include, at a minimum—

“(1) a description of the applicant's outreach program, and the geographic region it would serve, and of why the program would be capable of transferring knowledge and information about advanced energy technologies that increase efficiency of energy use;

“(2) a description of the activities the applicant would carry out, of the technologies that would be transferred, and of any other organizations that will help facilitate a regional approach to carrying out those activities;

“(3) a description of how the proposed activities would be appropriate to the specific energy needs of the geographic region to be served;

“(4) an estimate of the number and types of energy end-users expected to be reached through such activities; and

“(5) a description of how the applicant will assess the success of the program.

“(d) SELECTION CRITERIA.—The Secretary shall award grants under this section on the basis of the following criteria, at a minimum:

“(1) The ability of the applicant to carry out the proposed activities.

“(2) The extent to which the applicant will coordinate the activities of the Center with other entities as appropriate, such as State and local governments, utilities, institutions

of higher education, and National Laboratories.

“(3) The appropriateness of the applicant's outreach program for carrying out the program described in this section.

“(4) The likelihood that proposed activities could be expanded or used as a model for other areas.

“(e) COST-SHARING.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary shall require cost-sharing in accordance with the requirements of section 988 for commercial application activities.

“(f) DURATION.—

“(1) INITIAL GRANT PERIOD.—A grant awarded under this section shall be for a period of 5 years.

“(2) INITIAL EVALUATION.—Each grantee under this section shall be evaluated during its third year of operation under procedures established by the Secretary to determine if the grantee is accomplishing the purposes of this section described in subsection (a). The Secretary shall terminate any grant that does not receive a positive evaluation. If an evaluation is positive, the Secretary may extend the grant for 3 additional years beyond the original term of the grant.

“(3) ADDITIONAL EXTENSION.—If a grantee receives an extension under paragraph (2), the grantee shall be evaluated again during the second year of the extension. The Secretary shall terminate any grant that does not receive a positive evaluation. If an evaluation is positive, the Secretary may extend the grant for a final additional period of 3 additional years beyond the original extension.

“(4) LIMITATION.—No grantee may receive more than 11 years of support under this section without reapplying for support and competing against all other applicants seeking a grant at that time.

“(g) PROHIBITION.—None of the funds awarded under this section may be used for the construction of facilities.

“(h) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section:

“(1) ADVANCED ENERGY METHODS AND TECHNOLOGIES.—The term ‘advanced energy methods and technologies’ means all methods and technologies that promote energy efficiency and conservation, including distributed generation technologies, and life-cycle analysis of energy use.

“(2) CENTER.—The term ‘Center’ means an Advanced Energy Technology Transfer Center established pursuant to this section.

“(3) DISTRIBUTED GENERATION.—The term ‘distributed generation’ means an electric power generation technology, including photovoltaic, small wind, and micro-combined heat and power, that serves electric consumers at or near the site of production.

“(4) COOPERATIVE EXTENSION.—The term ‘Cooperative Extension’ means the extension services established at the land-grant colleges and universities under the Smith-Lever Act of May 8, 1914.

“(5) LAND-GRANT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES.—The term ‘land-grant colleges and universities’ means—

“(A) 1862 Institutions (as defined in section 2 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7601));

“(B) 1890 Institutions (as defined in section 2 of that Act); and

“(C) 1994 Institutions (as defined in section 2 of that Act).

“(i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In addition to amounts otherwise authorized to be appropriated in section 911, there are authorized to be appropriated for the program under this section such sums as may be appropriated.”.

SEC. 602. AMENDMENTS TO THE STEEL AND ALUMINUM ENERGY CONSERVATION AND TECHNOLOGY COMPETITIVENESS ACT OF 1988.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 9 of the Steel and Aluminum Energy Conservation and Technology Competitiveness Act of 1988 (15 U.S.C. 5108) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 9. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

“There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this Act \$12,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2008 through 2012.”.

(b) STEEL PROJECT PRIORITIES.—Section 4(c)(1) of the Steel and Aluminum Energy Conservation and Technology Competitiveness Act of 1988 (15 U.S.C. 5103(c)(1)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (H), by striking “coatings for sheet steels” and inserting “sheet and bar steels”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(K) The development of technologies which reduce greenhouse gas emissions.”.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—The Steel and Aluminum Energy Conservation and Technology Competitiveness Act of 1988 is further amended—

(1) by striking section 7 (15 U.S.C. 5106); and

(2) in section 8 (15 U.S.C. 5107), by inserting “, beginning with fiscal year 2008,” after “close of each fiscal year”.

TITLE VII—NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Subtitle A—Immigration, Security, and Labor

SEC. 701. STATEMENT OF CONGRESSIONAL INTENT.

(a) IMMIGRATION AND GROWTH.—In recognition of the need to ensure uniform adherence to long-standing fundamental immigration policies of the United States, it is the intention of the Congress in enacting this subtitle—

(1) to ensure that effective border control procedures are implemented and observed, and that national security and homeland security issues are properly addressed, by extending the immigration laws (as defined in section 101(a)(17) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 (a)(17)), to apply to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (referred to in this subtitle as the “Commonwealth”), with special provisions to allow for—

(A) the orderly phasing-out of the non-resident contract worker program of the Commonwealth; and

(B) the orderly phasing-in of Federal responsibilities over immigration in the Commonwealth; and

(2) to minimize, to the greatest extent practicable, potential adverse economic and fiscal effects of phasing-out the Commonwealth's nonresident contract worker program and to maximize the Commonwealth's potential for future economic and business growth by—

(A) encouraging diversification and growth of the economy of the Commonwealth in accordance with fundamental values underlying Federal immigration policy;

(B) recognizing local self-government, as provided for in the Covenant To Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union With the United States of America through consultation with the Governor of the Commonwealth;

(C) assisting the Commonwealth in achieving a progressively higher standard of living for citizens of the Commonwealth through the provision of technical and other assistance;

(D) providing opportunities for individuals authorized to work in the United States, including citizens of the freely associated states; and

(E) providing a mechanism for the continued use of alien workers, to the extent those workers continue to be necessary to supplement the Commonwealth's resident workforce, and to protect those workers from the potential for abuse and exploitation.

(b) AVOIDING ADVERSE EFFECTS.—In recognition of the Commonwealth's unique economic circumstances, history, and geographical location, it is the intent of the Congress that the Commonwealth be given as much flexibility as possible in maintaining existing businesses and other revenue sources, and developing new economic opportunities, consistent with the mandates of this subtitle. This subtitle, and the amendments made by this subtitle, should be implemented wherever possible to expand tourism and economic development in the Commonwealth, including aiding prospective tourists in gaining access to the Commonwealth's memorials, beaches, parks, dive sites, and other points of interest.

SEC. 702. IMMIGRATION REFORM FOR THE COMMONWEALTH.

(a) AMENDMENT TO JOINT RESOLUTION APPROVING COVENANT ESTABLISHING COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS.—The Joint Resolution entitled "A Joint Resolution to approve the 'Covenant To Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America', and for other purposes", approved March 24, 1976 (Public Law 94-241; 90 Stat. 263), is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"SEC. 6. IMMIGRATION AND TRANSITION.

"(a) APPLICATION OF THE IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY ACT AND ESTABLISHMENT OF A TRANSITION PROGRAM.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraphs (2) and (3), effective on the first day of the first full month commencing 1 year after the date of enactment of the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008 (hereafter referred to as the 'transition program effective date'), the provisions of the 'immigration laws' (as defined in section 101(a)(17) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(17))) shall apply to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (referred to in this section as the 'Commonwealth'), except as otherwise provided in this section.

"(2) TRANSITION PERIOD.—There shall be a transition period beginning on the transition program effective date and ending on December 31, 2014, except as provided in subsections (b) and (d), during which the Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Secretary of State, the Attorney General, the Secretary of Labor, and the Secretary of the Interior, shall establish, administer, and enforce a transition program to regulate immigration to the Commonwealth, as provided in this section (hereafter referred to as the 'transition program').

"(3) DELAY OF COMMENCEMENT OF TRANSITION PERIOD.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Homeland Security, in the Secretary's sole discretion, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Labor, the Secretary of State, the Attorney General, and the Governor of the Commonwealth, may determine that the transition program effective date be delayed for a period not to exceed more than 180 days after such date.

"(B) CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall notify the Congress of a determination under subparagraph (A) not later than 30 days prior to the transition program effective date.

"(C) CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW.—A delay of the transition program effective date shall not take effect until 30 days after the date on which the notification under subparagraph (B) is made.

"(4) REQUIREMENT FOR REGULATIONS.—The transition program shall be implemented pursuant to regulations to be promulgated, as appropriate, by the head of each agency or department of the United States having responsibilities under the transition program.

"(5) INTERAGENCY AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary of Homeland Security, the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Labor, and the Secretary of the Interior shall negotiate and implement agreements among their agencies to identify and assign their respective duties so as to ensure timely and proper implementation of the provisions of this section. The agreements should address, at a minimum, procedures to ensure that Commonwealth employers have access to adequate labor, and that tourists, students, retirees, and other visitors have access to the Commonwealth without unnecessary delay or impediment. The agreements may also allocate funding between the respective agencies tasked with various responsibilities under this section.

"(6) CERTAIN EDUCATION FUNDING.—In addition to fees charged pursuant to section 286(m) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1356(m)) to recover the full costs of providing adjudication services, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall charge an annual supplemental fee of \$150 per nonimmigrant worker to each prospective employer who is issued a permit under subsection (d) of this section during the transition period. Such supplemental fee shall be paid into the Treasury of the Commonwealth government for the purpose of funding ongoing vocational educational curricula and program development by Commonwealth educational entities.

"(7) ASYLUM.—Section 208 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1158) shall not apply during the transition period to persons physically present in the Commonwealth or arriving in the Commonwealth (whether or not at a designated port of arrival), including persons brought to the Commonwealth after having been interdicted in international or United States waters.

"(b) NUMERICAL LIMITATIONS FOR NON-IMMIGRANT WORKERS.—An alien, if otherwise qualified, may seek admission to Guam or to the Commonwealth during the transition program as a nonimmigrant worker under section 101(a)(15)(H) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(H)) without counting against the numerical limitations set forth in section 214(g) of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1184(g)). This subsection does not apply to any employment to be performed outside of Guam or the Commonwealth. Not later than 3 years following the transition program effective date, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall issue a report to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives projecting the number of asylum claims the Secretary anticipates following the termination of the transition period, the efforts the Secretary has made to ensure appropriate interdiction efforts, provide for appropriate treatment of asylum seekers, and prepare to accept and adjudicate asylum claims in the Commonwealth.

"(c) NONIMMIGRANT INVESTOR VISAS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding the treaty requirements in section 101(a)(15)(E) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(E)), during the transition period, the Secretary of Homeland Security may, upon the application of an alien, classify an alien as a CNMI-only nonimmigrant under section 101(a)(15)(E)(ii) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(E)(ii)) if the alien—

"(A) has been admitted to the Commonwealth in long-term investor status under the immigration laws of the Commonwealth before the transition program effective date;

"(B) has continuously maintained residence in the Commonwealth under long-term investor status;

"(C) is otherwise admissible; and

"(D) maintains the investment or investments that formed the basis for such long-term investor status.

"(2) REQUIREMENT FOR REGULATIONS.—Not later than 60 days before the transition program effective date, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall publish regulations in the Federal Register to implement this subsection.

"(d) SPECIAL PROVISION TO ENSURE ADEQUATE EMPLOYMENT; COMMONWEALTH ONLY TRANSITIONAL WORKERS.—An alien who is seeking to enter the Commonwealth as a nonimmigrant worker may be admitted to perform work during the transition period subject to the following requirements:

"(1) Such an alien shall be treated as a nonimmigrant described in section 101(a)(15) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)), including the ability to apply, if otherwise eligible, for a change of nonimmigrant classification under section 248 of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1258) or adjustment of status under this section and section 245 of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1255).

"(2) The Secretary of Homeland Security shall establish, administer, and enforce a system for allocating and determining the number, terms, and conditions of permits to be issued to prospective employers for each such nonimmigrant worker described in this subsection who would not otherwise be eligible for admission under the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.). In adopting and enforcing this system, the Secretary shall also consider, in good faith and not later than 30 days after receipt by the Secretary, any comments and advice submitted by the Governor of the Commonwealth. This system shall provide for a reduction in the allocation of permits for such workers on an annual basis to zero, during a period not to extend beyond December 31, 2014, unless extended pursuant to paragraph 5 of this subsection. In no event shall a permit be valid beyond the expiration of the transition period. This system may be based on any reasonable method and criteria determined by the Secretary of Homeland Security to promote the maximum use of, and to prevent adverse effects on wages and working conditions of, workers authorized to be employed in the United States, including lawfully admissible freely associated state citizen labor. No alien shall be granted nonimmigrant classification or a visa under this subsection unless the permit requirements established under this paragraph have been met.

"(3) The Secretary of Homeland Security shall set the conditions for admission of such an alien under the transition program, and the Secretary of State shall authorize the issuance of nonimmigrant visas for such an alien. Such a visa shall not be valid for admission to the United States, as defined in section 101(a)(38) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(38)), except admission to the Commonwealth. An alien admitted to the Commonwealth on the basis of such a visa shall be permitted to engage in employment only as authorized pursuant to the transition program.

"(4) Such an alien shall be permitted to transfer between employers in the Commonwealth during the period of such alien's authorized stay therein, without permission of the employee's current or prior employer, within the alien's occupational category or another occupational category the Secretary

of Homeland Security has found requires alien workers to supplement the resident workforce.

“(5)(A) Not later than 180 days prior to the expiration of the transition period, or any extension thereof, the Secretary of Labor, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of the Interior, and the Governor of the Commonwealth, shall ascertain the current and anticipated labor needs of the Commonwealth and determine whether an extension of up to 5 years of the provisions of this subsection is necessary to ensure an adequate number of workers will be available for legitimate businesses in the Commonwealth. For the purpose of this subparagraph, a business shall not be considered legitimate if it engages directly or indirectly in prostitution, trafficking in minors, or any other activity that is illegal under Federal or local law. The determinations of whether a business is legitimate and to what extent, if any, it may require alien workers to supplement the resident workforce, shall be made by the Secretary of Homeland Security, in the Secretary’s sole discretion.

“(B) If the Secretary of Labor determines that such an extension is necessary to ensure an adequate number of workers for legitimate businesses in the Commonwealth, the Secretary of Labor may, through notice published in the Federal Register, provide for an additional extension period of up to 5 years.

“(C) In making the determination of whether alien workers are necessary to ensure an adequate number of workers for legitimate businesses in the Commonwealth, and if so, the number of such workers that are necessary, the Secretary of Labor may consider, among other relevant factors—

“(i) government, industry, or independent workforce studies reporting on the need, or lack thereof, for alien workers in the Commonwealth’s businesses;

“(ii) the unemployment rate of United States citizen workers residing in the Commonwealth;

“(iii) the unemployment rate of aliens in the Commonwealth who have been lawfully admitted for permanent residence;

“(iv) the number of unemployed alien workers in the Commonwealth;

“(v) any good faith efforts to locate, educate, train, or otherwise prepare United States citizen residents, lawful permanent residents, and unemployed alien workers already in the Commonwealth, to assume those jobs;

“(vi) any available evidence tending to show that United States citizen residents, lawful permanent residents, and unemployed alien workers already in the Commonwealth are not willing to accept jobs of the type offered;

“(vii) the extent to which admittance of alien workers will affect the compensation, benefits, and living standards of existing workers within those industries and other industries authorized to employ alien workers; and

“(viii) the prior use, if any, of alien workers to fill those industry jobs, and whether the industry requires alien workers to fill those jobs.

“(6) The Secretary of Homeland Security may authorize the admission of a spouse or minor child accompanying or following to join a worker admitted pursuant to this subsection.

“(e) PERSONS LAWFULLY ADMITTED UNDER THE COMMONWEALTH IMMIGRATION LAW.—

“(1) PROHIBITION ON REMOVAL.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), no alien who is lawfully present in the Commonwealth pursuant to the immigration laws of the Commonwealth on the transition program effective date shall be removed

from the United States on the grounds that such alien’s presence in the Commonwealth is in violation of section 212(a)(6)(A) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)(6)(A)), until the earlier of the date—

“(i) of the completion of the period of the alien’s admission under the immigration laws of the Commonwealth; or

“(ii) that is 2 years after the transition program effective date.

“(B) LIMITATIONS.—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prevent or limit the removal under subparagraph 212(a)(6)(A) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)(6)(A)) of such an alien at any time, if the alien entered the Commonwealth after the date of enactment of the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008, and the Secretary of Homeland Security has determined that the Government of the Commonwealth has violated section 702(i) of the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008.

“(2) EMPLOYMENT AUTHORIZATION.—An alien who is lawfully present and authorized to be employed in the Commonwealth pursuant to the immigration laws of the Commonwealth on the transition program effective date shall be considered authorized by the Secretary of Homeland Security to be employed in the Commonwealth until the earlier of the date—

“(A) of expiration of the alien’s employment authorization under the immigration laws of the Commonwealth; or

“(B) that is 2 years after the transition program effective date.

“(3) REGISTRATION.—The Secretary of Homeland Security may require any alien present in the Commonwealth on or after the transition period effective date to register with the Secretary in such a manner, and according to such schedule, as he may in his discretion require. Paragraphs (1) and (2) of this subsection shall not apply to any alien who fails to comply with such registration requirement. Notwithstanding any other law, the Government of the Commonwealth shall provide to the Secretary all Commonwealth immigration records or other information that the Secretary deems necessary to assist the implementation of this paragraph or other provisions of the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008. Nothing in this paragraph shall modify or limit section 262 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1302) or other provision of the Immigration and Nationality Act relating to the registration of aliens.

“(4) REMOVABLE ALIENS.—Except as specifically provided in paragraph (1)(A) of this subsection, nothing in this subsection shall prohibit or limit the removal of any alien who is removable under the Immigration and Nationality Act.

“(5) PRIOR ORDERS OF REMOVAL.—The Secretary of Homeland Security may execute any administratively final order of exclusion, deportation or removal issued under authority of the immigration laws of the United States before, on, or after the transition period effective date, or under authority of the immigration laws of the Commonwealth before the transition period effective date, upon any subject of such order found in the Commonwealth on or after the transition period effective date, regardless whether the alien has previously been removed from the United States or the Commonwealth pursuant to such order.

“(f) EFFECT ON OTHER LAWS.—The provisions of this section and of the immigration laws, as defined in section 101(a)(17) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(17)), shall, on the transition program effective date, supersede and replace all laws, provisions, or programs of the Commonwealth relating to the admission of

aliens and the removal of aliens from the Commonwealth.

“(g) ACCRUAL OF TIME FOR PURPOSES OF SECTION 212(A)(9)(B) OF THE IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY ACT.—No time that an alien is present in the Commonwealth in violation of the immigration laws of the Commonwealth shall be counted for purposes of inadmissibility under section 212(a)(9)(B) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)(9)(B)).

“(h) REPORT ON NONRESIDENT GUESTWORKER POPULATION.—The Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security, and the Governor of the Commonwealth, shall report to the Congress not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008. The report shall include—

“(1) the number of aliens residing in the Commonwealth;

“(2) a description of the legal status (under Federal law) of such aliens;

“(3) the number of years each alien has been residing in the Commonwealth;

“(4) the current and future requirements of the Commonwealth economy for an alien workforce; and

“(5) such recommendations to the Congress, as the Secretary may deem appropriate, related to whether or not the Congress should consider permitting lawfully admitted guest workers lawfully residing in the Commonwealth on such enactment date to apply for long-term status under the immigration and nationality laws of the United States.”.

(b) WAIVER OF REQUIREMENTS FOR NON-IMMIGRANT VISITORS.—The Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 214(a)(1) (8 U.S.C. 1184(a)(1))—
(A) by striking “Guam” each place such term appears and inserting “Guam or the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands”; and

(B) by striking “fifteen” and inserting “45”;

(2) in section 212(a)(7)(B) (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)(7)(B)), by amending clause (iii) to read as follows:

“(iii) GUAM AND NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS VISA WAIVER.—For provision authorizing waiver of clause (i) in the case of visitors to Guam or the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, see subsection (1).”; and

(3) by amending section 212(1) (8 U.S.C. 1182(1)) to read as follows:

“(1) GUAM AND NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS VISA WAIVER PROGRAM.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The requirement of subsection (a)(7)(B)(i) may be waived by the Secretary of Homeland Security, in the case of an alien applying for admission as a non-immigrant visitor for business or pleasure and solely for entry into and stay in Guam or the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands for a period not to exceed 45 days, if the Secretary of Homeland Security, after consultation with the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of State, the Governor of Guam and the Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, determines that—

“(A) an adequate arrival and departure control system has been developed in Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; and

“(B) such a waiver does not represent a threat to the welfare, safety, or security of the United States or its territories and commonwealths.

“(2) ALIEN WAIVER OF RIGHTS.—An alien may not be provided a waiver under this subsection unless the alien has waived any right—

“(A) to review or appeal under this Act an immigration officer’s determination as to the admissibility of the alien at the port of entry into Guam or the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; or

“(B) to contest, other than on the basis of an application for withholding of removal under section 241(b)(3) of this Act or under the Convention Against Torture, or an application for asylum if permitted under section 208, any action for removal of the alien.

“(3) REGULATIONS.—All necessary regulations to implement this subsection shall be promulgated by the Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of State, on or before the 180th day after the date of enactment of the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008. The promulgation of such regulations shall be considered a foreign affairs function for purposes of section 553(a) of title 5, United States Code. At a minimum, such regulations should include, but not necessarily be limited to—

“(A) a listing of all countries whose nationals may obtain the waiver also provided by this subsection, except that such regulations shall provide for a listing of any country from which the Commonwealth has received a significant economic benefit from the number of visitors for pleasure within the one-year period preceding the date of enactment of the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008, unless the Secretary of Homeland Security determines that such country’s inclusion on such list would represent a threat to the welfare, safety, or security of the United States or its territories; and

“(B) any bonding requirements for nationals of some or all of those countries who may present an increased risk of overstay or other potential problems, if different from such requirements otherwise provided by law for nonimmigrant visitors.

“(4) FACTORS.—In determining whether to grant or continue providing the waiver under this subsection to nationals of any country, the Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of State, shall consider all factors that the Secretary deems relevant, including electronic travel authorizations, procedures for reporting lost and stolen passports, repatriation of aliens, rates of refusal for nonimmigrant visitor visas, overstay, exit systems, and information exchange.

“(5) SUSPENSION.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall monitor the admission of nonimmigrant visitors to Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands under this subsection. If the Secretary determines that such admissions have resulted in an unacceptable number of visitors from a country remaining unlawfully in Guam or the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, unlawfully obtaining entry to other parts of the United States, or seeking withholding of removal or asylum, or that visitors from a country pose a risk to law enforcement or security interests of Guam or the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or of the United States (including the interest in the enforcement of the immigration laws of the United States), the Secretary shall suspend the admission of nationals of such country under this subsection. The Secretary of Homeland Security may in the Secretary’s discretion suspend the Guam and Northern Mariana Islands visa waiver program at any time, on a country-by-country basis, for other good cause.

“(6) ADDITION OF COUNTRIES.—The Governor of Guam and the Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands may request the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Homeland Security to add a particular country to the list of countries

whose nationals may obtain the waiver provided by this subsection, and the Secretary of Homeland Security may grant such request after consultation with the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of State, and may promulgate regulations with respect to the inclusion of that country and any special requirements the Secretary of Homeland Security, in the Secretary’s sole discretion, may impose prior to allowing nationals of that country to obtain the waiver provided by this subsection.”

(c) SPECIAL NONIMMIGRANT CATEGORIES FOR GUAM AND THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS.—The Governor of Guam and the Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (referred to in this subsection as “CNMI”) may request that the Secretary of Homeland Security study the feasibility of creating additional Guam or CNMI-only nonimmigrant visas to the extent that existing nonimmigrant visa categories under the Immigration and Nationality Act do not provide for the type of visitor, the duration of allowable visit, or other circumstance. The Secretary of Homeland Security may review such a request, and, after consultation with the Secretary of State and the Secretary of the Interior, shall issue a report to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives with respect to the feasibility of creating those additional Guam or CNMI-only visa categories. Consideration of such additional Guam or CNMI-only visa categories may include, but are not limited to, special nonimmigrant statuses for investors, students, and retirees, but shall not include nonimmigrant status for the purpose of employment in Guam or the CNMI.

(d) INSPECTION OF PERSONS ARRIVING FROM THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS; GUAM AND NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS-ONLY VISAS NOT VALID FOR ENTRY INTO OTHER PARTS OF THE UNITED STATES.—Section 212(d)(7) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(d)(7)) is amended by inserting “the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands,” after “Guam.”

(e) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Governor of the Commonwealth, the Secretary of Labor, and the Secretary of Commerce, and as provided in the Interagency Agreements required to be negotiated under section 6(a)(4) of the Joint Resolution entitled “A Joint Resolution to approve the ‘Covenant To Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America’, and for other purposes”, approved March 24, 1976 (Public Law 94-241), as added by subsection (a), shall provide—

(A) technical assistance and other support to the Commonwealth to identify opportunities for, and encourage diversification and growth of, the economy of the Commonwealth;

(B) technical assistance, including assistance in recruiting, training, and hiring of workers, to assist employers in the Commonwealth in securing employees first from among United States citizens and nationals resident in the Commonwealth and if an adequate number of such workers are not available, from among legal permanent residents, including lawfully admissible citizens of the freely associated states; and

(C) technical assistance, including assistance to identify types of jobs needed, identify skills needed to fulfill such jobs, and assistance to Commonwealth educational entities to develop curricula for such job skills to include training teachers and students for such skills.

(2) CONSULTATION.—In providing such technical assistance under paragraph (1), the Secretaries shall—

(A) consult with the Government of the Commonwealth, local businesses, regional banks, educational institutions, and other experts in the economy of the Commonwealth; and

(B) assist in the development and implementation of a process to identify opportunities for and encourage diversification and growth of the economy of the Commonwealth and to identify and encourage opportunities to meet the labor needs of the Commonwealth.

(3) COST-SHARING.—For the provision of technical assistance or support under this paragraph (other than that required to pay the salaries and expenses of Federal personnel), the Secretary of the Interior shall require a non-Federal matching contribution of 10 percent.

(f) OPERATIONS.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—At any time on and after the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General, Secretary of Homeland Security, and the Secretary of Labor may establish and maintain offices and other operations in the Commonwealth for the purpose of carrying out duties under—

(A) the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.); and

(B) the transition program established under section 6 of the Joint Resolution entitled “A Joint Resolution to approve the ‘Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America’, and for other purposes”, approved March 24, 1976 (Public Law 94-241), as added by subsection (a).

(2) PERSONNEL.—To the maximum extent practicable and consistent with the satisfactory performance of assigned duties under applicable law, the Attorney General, Secretary of Homeland Security, and the Secretary of Labor shall recruit and hire personnel from among qualified United States citizens and national applicants residing in the Commonwealth to serve as staff in carrying out operations described in paragraph (1).

(g) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS TO PUBLIC LAW 94-241.—

(1) AMENDMENTS.—Public Law 94-241 is amended as follows:

(A) In section 503 of the covenant set forth in section 1, by striking subsection (a) and redesignating subsections (b) and (c) as subsections (a) and (b), respectively.

(B) By striking section 506 of the covenant set forth in section 1.

(C) In section 703(b) of the covenant set forth in section 1, by striking “quarantine, passport, immigration and naturalization” and inserting “quarantine and passport”.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by paragraph (1) shall take effect on the transition program effective date described in section 6 of Public Law 94-241 (as added by subsection (a)).

(h) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than March 1 of the first year that is at least 2 full years after the date of enactment of this subtitle, and annually thereafter, the President shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives a report that evaluates the overall effect of the transition program established under section 6 of the Joint Resolution entitled “A Joint Resolution to approve the ‘Covenant To Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America’,

and for other purposes", approved March 24, 1976 (Public Law 94-241), as added by subsection (a), and the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.) on the Commonwealth.

(2) **CONTENTS.**—In addition to other topics otherwise required to be included under this subtitle or the amendments made by this subtitle, each report submitted under paragraph (1) shall include a description of the efforts that have been undertaken during the period covered by the report to diversify and strengthen the local economy of the Commonwealth, including efforts to promote the Commonwealth as a tourist destination. The report by the President shall include an estimate for the numbers of nonimmigrant workers described under section 101(a)(15)(H) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(H)) necessary to avoid adverse economic effects in Guam and the Commonwealth.

(3) **GAO REPORT.**—The Government Accountability Office shall submit a report to the Congress not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, to include, at a minimum, the following items:

(A) An assessment of the implementation of this subtitle and the amendments made by this subtitle, including an assessment of the performance of Federal agencies and the Government of the Commonwealth in meeting congressional intent.

(B) An assessment of the short-term and long-term impacts of implementation of this subtitle and the amendments made by this subtitle on the economy of the Commonwealth, including its ability to obtain workers to supplement its resident workforce and to maintain access to its tourists and customers, and any effect on compliance with United States treaty obligations mandating non-refoulement for refugees.

(C) An assessment of the economic benefit of the investors "grandfathered" under subsection (c) of section 6 of the Joint Resolution entitled "A Joint Resolution to approve the Covenant To Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America", and for other purposes", approved March 24, 1976 (Public Law 94-241), as added by subsection (a), and the Commonwealth's ability to attract new investors after the date of enactment of this Act.

(D) An assessment of the number of illegal aliens in the Commonwealth, including any Federal and Commonwealth efforts to locate and repatriate them.

(4) **REPORTS BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT.**—The Governor of the Commonwealth may submit an annual report to the President on the implementation of this subtitle, and the amendments made by this subtitle, with recommendations for future changes. The President shall forward the Governor's report to the Congress with any Administration comment after an appropriate period of time for internal review, provided that nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to require the President to provide any legislative recommendation to the Congress.

(5) **REPORT ON FEDERAL PERSONNEL AND RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security, after consulting with the Secretary of the Interior and other departments and agencies as may be deemed necessary, shall submit a report to the Committee on Natural Resources, the Committee on Homeland Security, and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives, and to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate, on the current and planned levels of Transportation Security

Administration, United States Customs and Border Protection, United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement, United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, and United States Coast Guard personnel and resources necessary for fulfilling mission requirements on Guam and the Commonwealth in a manner comparable to the level provided at other similar ports of entry in the United States. In fulfilling this reporting requirement, the Secretary shall consider and anticipate the increased requirements due to the proposed realignment of military forces on Guam and in the Commonwealth and growth in the tourism sector.

(1) **REQUIRED ACTIONS PRIOR TO TRANSITION PROGRAM EFFECTIVE DATE.**—During the period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act and ending on the transition program effective date described in section 6 of Public Law 94-241 (as added by subsection (a)), the Government of the Commonwealth shall—

(1) not permit an increase in the total number of alien workers who are present in the Commonwealth as of the date of enactment of this Act; and

(2) administer its nonrefoulement protection program—

(A) according to the terms and procedures set forth in the Memorandum of Agreement entered into between the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and the United States Department of Interior, Office of Insular Affairs, executed on September 12, 2003 (which terms and procedures, including but not limited to funding by the Secretary of the Interior and performance by the Secretary of Homeland Security of the duties of "Protection Consultant" to the Commonwealth, shall have effect on and after the date of enactment of this Act), as well as CNMI Public Law 13-61 and the Immigration Regulations Establishing a Procedural Mechanism for Persons Requesting Protection from Refoulement; and

(B) so as not to remove or otherwise effect the involuntary return of any alien whom the Protection Consultant has determined to be eligible for protection from persecution or torture.

(j) **CONFORMING AMENDMENTS TO THE IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY ACT.**—The Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 101(a)(15)(D)(ii), by inserting "or the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands" after "Guam" each time such term appears;

(2) in section 101(a)(36), by striking "and the Virgin Islands of the United States" and inserting "the Virgin Islands of the United States, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands";

(3) in section 101(a)(38), by striking "and the Virgin Islands of the United States" and inserting "the Virgin Islands of the United States, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands";

(4) in section 208, by adding at the end the following:

"(e) **COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS.**—The provisions of this section and section 209(b) shall apply to persons physically present in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or arriving in the Commonwealth (whether or not at a designated port of arrival and including persons who are brought to the Commonwealth after having been interdicted in international or United States waters) only on or after January 1, 2014."; and

(5) in section 235(b)(1), by adding at the end the following:

"(G) **COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS.**—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to authorize or re-

quire any person described in section 208(e) to be permitted to apply for asylum under section 208 at any time before January 1, 2014.".

(k) **AVAILABILITY OF OTHER NONIMMIGRANT PROFESSIONALS.**—The requirements of section 212(m)(6)(B) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(m)(6)(B)) shall not apply to a facility in Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, or the Virgin Islands.

SEC. 703. FURTHER AMENDMENTS TO PUBLIC LAW 94-241.

Public Law 94-241, as amended, is further amended in section 4(c)(3) by striking the colon after "Marshall Islands" and inserting the following: "except that \$200,000 in fiscal year 2009 and \$225,000 annually for fiscal years 2010 through 2018 are hereby rescinded; Provided, That the amount rescinded shall be increased by the same percentage as that of the annual salary and benefit adjustments for Members of Congress".

SEC. 704. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out this subtitle.

SEC. 705. EFFECTIVE DATE.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as specifically provided in this section or otherwise in this subtitle, this subtitle and the amendments made by this subtitle shall take effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) **AMENDMENTS TO THE IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY ACT.**—The amendments to the Immigration and Nationality Act made by this subtitle, and other provisions of this subtitle applying the immigration laws (as defined in section 101(a)(17) of Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(17))) to the Commonwealth, shall take effect on the transition program effective date described in section 6 of Public Law 94-241 (as added by section 702(a)), unless specifically provided otherwise in this subtitle.

(c) **CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this subtitle or the amendments made by this subtitle shall be construed to make any residence or presence in the Commonwealth before the transition program effective date described in section 6 of Public Law 94-241 (as added by section 702(a)) residence or presence in the United States, except that, for the purpose only of determining whether an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence (as defined in section 101(a)(20) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(20))) has abandoned or lost such status by reason of absence from the United States, such alien's presence in the Commonwealth before, on, or after the date of enactment of this Act shall be considered to be presence in the United States.

Subtitle B—Northern Mariana Islands Delegate

SEC. 711. DELEGATE TO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS.

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands shall be represented in the United States Congress by the Resident Representative to the United States authorized by section 901 of the Covenant To Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union With the United States of America (approved by Public Law 94-241 (48 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.)). The Resident Representative shall be a nonvoting Delegate to the House of Representatives, elected as provided in this subtitle.

SEC. 712. ELECTION OF DELEGATE.

(a) **ELECTORS AND TIME OF ELECTION.**—The Delegate shall be elected—

(1) by the people qualified to vote for the popularly elected officials of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; and

(2) at the Federal general election of 2008 and at such Federal general election every 2d year thereafter.

(b) **MANNER OF ELECTION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Delegate shall be elected at large and by a plurality of the votes cast for the office of Delegate.

(2) **EFFECT OF ESTABLISHMENT OF PRIMARY ELECTIONS.**—Notwithstanding paragraph (1), if the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, acting pursuant to legislation enacted in accordance with the Constitution of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, provides for primary elections for the election of the Delegate, the Delegate shall be elected by a majority of the votes cast in any general election for the office of Delegate for which such primary elections were held.

(c) **VACANCY.**—In case of a permanent vacancy in the office of Delegate, the office of Delegate shall remain vacant until a successor is elected and qualified.

(d) **COMMENCEMENT OF TERM.**—The term of the Delegate shall commence on the 3d day of January following the date of the election.

SEC. 713. QUALIFICATIONS FOR OFFICE OF DELEGATE.

To be eligible for the office of Delegate a candidate shall—

(1) be at least 25 years of age on the date of the election;

(2) have been a citizen of the United States for at least 7 years prior to the date of the election;

(3) be a resident and domiciliary of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands for at least 7 years prior to the date of the election;

(4) be qualified to vote in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands on the date of the election; and

(5) not be, on the date of the election, a candidate for any other office.

SEC. 714. DETERMINATION OF ELECTION PROCEDURE.

Acting pursuant to legislation enacted in accordance with the Constitution of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands may determine the order of names on the ballot for election of Delegate, the method by which a special election to fill a permanent vacancy in the office of Delegate shall be conducted, the method by which ties between candidates for the office of Delegate shall be resolved, and all other matters of local application pertaining to the election and the office of Delegate not otherwise expressly provided for in this subtitle.

SEC. 715. COMPENSATION, PRIVILEGES, AND IMMUNITIES.

Until the Rules of the House of Representatives are amended to provide otherwise, the Delegate from the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands shall receive the same compensation, allowances, and benefits as a Member of the House of Representatives, and shall be entitled to whatever privileges and immunities are, or hereinafter may be, granted to any other nonvoting Delegate to the House of Representatives.

SEC. 716. LACK OF EFFECT ON COVENANT.

No provision of this subtitle shall be construed to alter, amend, or abrogate any provision of the covenant referred to in section 711 except section 901 of the covenant.

SEC. 717. DEFINITION.

For purposes of this subtitle, the term “Delegate” means the Resident Representative referred to in section 711.

SEC. 718. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS REGARDING APPOINTMENTS TO MILITARY SERVICE ACADEMIES BY DELEGATE FROM THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS.

(a) **UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY.**—Section 4342(a)(10) of title 10, United States

Code, is amended by striking “resident representative” and inserting “Delegate in Congress”.

(b) **UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY.**—Section 6954(a)(10) of such title is amended by striking “resident representative” and inserting “Delegate in Congress”.

(c) **UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY.**—Section 9342(a)(10) of such title is amended by striking “resident representative” and inserting “Delegate in Congress”.

TITLE VIII—COMPACTS OF FREE ASSOCIATION AMENDMENTS

SEC. 801. APPROVAL OF AGREEMENTS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 101 of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (48 U.S.C. 1921) is amended—

(1) in the first sentence of subsection (a), by inserting before the period at the end the following: “, including Article X of the Federal Programs and Services Agreement Between the Government of the United States and the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia, as amended under the Agreement to Amend Article X that was signed by those two Governments on June 30, 2004, which shall serve as the authority to implement the provisions thereof”; and

(2) in the first sentence of subsection (b), by inserting before the period at the end the following: “, including Article X of the Federal Programs and Services Agreement Between the Government of the United States and the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, as amended under the Agreement to Amend Article X that was signed by those two Governments on June 18, 2004, which shall serve as the authority to implement the provisions thereof”.

(b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by this section shall be effective as of the date that is 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 802. FUNDS TO FACILITATE FEDERAL ACTIVITIES.

Unobligated amounts appropriated before the date of enactment of this Act pursuant to section 105(f)(1)(A)(ii) of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 shall be available to both the United States Agency for International Development and the Federal Emergency Management Agency to facilitate each agency’s activities under the Federal Programs and Services Agreements.

SEC. 803. CONFORMING AMENDMENT.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 105(f)(1)(A) of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (48 U.S.C. 1921d(f)(1)(A)) is amended to read as follows:

“(A) **EMERGENCY AND DISASTER ASSISTANCE.**—

“(i) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to clause (ii), section 221(a)(6) of the U.S.–FSM Compact and section 221(a)(5) of the U.S.–RMI Compact shall each be construed and applied in accordance with the two Agreements to Amend Article X of the Federal Programs and Service Agreements signed on June 30, 2004, and on June 18, 2004, respectively, provided that all activities carried out by the United States Agency for International Development and the Federal Emergency Management Agency under Article X of the Federal Programs and Services Agreements may be carried out notwithstanding any other provision of law. In the sections referred to in this clause, the term ‘United States Agency for International Development, Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance’ shall be construed to mean ‘the United States Agency for International Development’.

“(ii) **DEFINITION OF WILL PROVIDE FUNDING.**—In the second sentence of paragraph 12 of each of the Agreements described in clause (i), the term ‘will provide funding’ means will provide funding through a trans-

fer of funds using Standard Form 1151 or a similar document or through an interagency, reimbursable agreement.”.

(b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall be effective as of the date that is 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 804. CLARIFICATIONS REGARDING PALAU.

Section 105(f)(1)(B) of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (48 U.S.C. 1921d(f)(1)(B)) is amended—

(1) in clause (ii)(II), by striking “and its territories” and inserting “, its territories, and the Republic of Palau”;

(2) in clause (iii)(II), by striking “, or the Republic of the Marshall Islands” and inserting “, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, or the Republic of Palau”; and

(3) in clause (ix)—

(A) by striking “Republic” both places it appears and inserting “government, institutions, and people”;

(B) by striking “2007” and inserting “2009”; and

(C) by striking “was” and inserting “were”.

SEC. 805. AVAILABILITY OF LEGAL SERVICES.

Section 105(f)(1)(C) of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (48 U.S.C. 1921d(f)(1)(C)) is amended by inserting before the period at the end the following: “, which shall also continue to be available to the citizens of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of Palau, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands who legally reside in the United States (including territories and possessions)”.

SEC. 806. TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.

(a) **TITLE I.**—

(1) **SECTION 177 AGREEMENT.**—Section 103(c)(1) of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (48 U.S.C. 1921b(c)(1)) is amended by striking “section 177” and inserting “Section 177”.

(2) **INTERPRETATION AND UNITED STATES POLICY.**—Section 104 of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (48 U.S.C. 1921c) is amended—

(A) in subsection (b)(1), by inserting “the” before “U.S.–RMI Compact,”;

(B) in subsection (e)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) of paragraph (8), by striking “to include” and inserting “and include”;

(ii) in paragraph (9)(A), by inserting a comma after “may”; and

(iii) in paragraph (10), by striking “related to service” and inserting “related to such services”; and

(C) in the first sentence of subsection (j), by inserting “the” before “Interior”.

(3) **SUPPLEMENTAL PROVISIONS.**—Section 105(b)(1) of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (48 U.S.C. 1921d(b)(1)) is amended by striking “Trust Fund” and inserting “Trust Funds”.

(b) **TITLE II.**—

(1) **U.S.–FSM COMPACT.**—The Compact of Free Association, as amended, between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia (as provided in section 201(a) of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (117 Stat. 2757)) is amended—

(A) in section 174—

(i) in subsection (a), by striking “courts” and inserting “court”; and

(ii) in subsection (b)(2), by striking “the” before “November”;

(B) in section 177(a), by striking “, or Palau” and inserting “(or Palau)”;

(C) in section 179(b), by striking “amended Compact” and inserting “Compact, as amended”;

(D) in section 211—

(i) in the fourth sentence of subsection (a), by striking “Compact, as Amended, of Free

Association" and inserting "Compact of Free Association, as amended";

(ii) in the fifth sentence of subsection (a), by striking "Trust Fund Agreement," and inserting "Agreement Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia Implementing Section 215 and Section 216 of the Compact, as Amended, Regarding a Trust Fund (Trust Fund Agreement).";

(iii) in subsection (b)—

(I) in the first sentence, by striking "Government of the" before "Federated"; and

(II) in the second sentence, by striking "Sections 321 and 323 of the Compact of Free Association, as Amended" and inserting "Sections 211(b), 321, and 323 of the Compact of Free Association, as amended,"; and

(iv) in the last sentence of subsection (d), by inserting before the period at the end the following: "and the Federal Programs and Services Agreement referred to in section 231";

(E) in the first sentence of section 215(b), by striking "subsection(a)" and inserting "subsection (a)";

(F) in section 221—

(i) in subsection (a)(6), by inserting "(Federal Emergency Management Agency)" after "Homeland Security"; and

(ii) in the first sentence of subsection (c), by striking "agreements" and inserting "agreement";

(G) in the second sentence of section 222, by inserting "in" after "referred to";

(H) in the second sentence of section 232, by striking "sections 102 (c)" and all that follows through "January 14, 1986" and inserting "section 102(b) of Public Law 108-188, 117 Stat. 2726, December 17, 2003";

(I) in the second sentence of section 252, by inserting ", as amended," after "Compact";

(J) in the first sentence of the first undesignated paragraph of section 341, by striking "Section 141" and inserting "section 141";

(K) in section 342—

(i) in subsection (a), by striking "14 U.S.C. 195" and inserting "section 195 of title 14, United States Code"; and

(ii) in subsection (b)—

(I) by striking "46 U.S.C. 1295(b)(6)" and inserting "section 1303(b)(6) of the Merchant Marine Act, 1936 (46 U.S.C. 1295b(b)(6))"; and

(II) by striking "46 U.S.C. 1295b(b)(6)(C)" and inserting "section 1303(b)(6)(C) of that Act";

(L) in the third sentence of section 354(a), by striking "section 442 and 452" and inserting "sections 442 and 452";

(M) in section 461(h), by striking "Telecommunications" and inserting "Telecommunication";

(N) in section 462(b)(4), by striking "of Free Association" the second place it appears; and

(O) in section 463(b), by striking "Articles IV" and inserting "Article IV".

(2) U.S.-RMI COMPACT.—The Compact of Free Association, as amended, between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands (as provided in section 201(b) of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (117 Stat. 2795)) is amended—

(A) in section 174(a), by striking "court" and inserting "courts";

(B) in section 177(a), by striking the comma before "(or Palau)";

(C) in section 179(b), by striking "amended Compact," and inserting "Compact, as amended,";

(D) in section 211—

(i) in the fourth sentence of subsection (a), by striking "Compact, as Amended, of Free Association" and inserting "Compact of Free Association, as amended";

(ii) in the first sentence of subsection (b), by striking "Agreement between the Government of the United States and the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands Regarding Military Use and Operating Rights" and inserting "Agreement Regarding the Military Use and Operating Rights of the Government of the United States in the Republic of the Marshall Islands concluded Pursuant to Sections 321 and 323 of the Compact of Free Association, as Amended (Agreement between the Government of the United States and the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands Regarding Military Use and Operating Rights)"; and

(iii) in the last sentence of subsection (e), by inserting before the period at the end the following: "and the Federal Programs and Services Agreement referred to in section 231";

(E) in section 221(a)—

(i) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking "Section 231" and inserting "section 231"; and

(ii) in paragraph (5), by inserting "(Federal Emergency Management Agency)" after "Homeland Security";

(F) in the second sentence of section 232, by striking "sections 103(m)" and all that follows through "(January 14, 1986)" and inserting "section 103(k) of Public Law 108-188, 117 Stat. 2734, December 17, 2003";

(G) in the first sentence of section 341, by striking "Section 141" and inserting "section 141";

(H) in section 342—

(i) in subsection (a), by striking "14 U.S.C. 195" and inserting "section 195 of title 14, United States Code"; and

(ii) in subsection (b)—

(I) by striking "46 U.S.C. 1295(b)(6)" and inserting "section 1303(b)(6) of the Merchant Marine Act, 1936 (46 U.S.C. 1295b(b)(6))"; and

(II) by striking "46 U.S.C. 1295b(b)(6)(C)" and inserting "section 1303(b)(6)(C) of that Act";

(I) in the third sentence of section 354(a), by striking "section 442 and 452" and inserting "sections 442 and 452";

(J) in the first sentence of section 443, by inserting ", as amended." after "the Compact";

(K) in the matter preceding paragraph (1) of section 461(h)—

(i) by striking "1978" and inserting "1998"; and

(ii) by striking "Telecommunications" and inserting "Telecommunication Union"; and

(L) in section 463(b), by striking "Article" and inserting "Articles".

SEC. 807. TRANSMISSION OF VIDEOTAPE PROGRAMMING.

Section 111(e)(2) of title 17, United States Code, is amended by striking "or the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands" and inserting "the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of Palau, or the Republic of the Marshall Islands".

SEC. 808. PALAU ROAD MAINTENANCE.

The Government of the Republic of Palau may deposit the payment otherwise payable to the Government of the United States under section 111 of Public Law 101-219 (48 U.S.C. 1960) into a trust fund if—

(1) the earnings of the trust fund are expended solely for maintenance of the road system constructed pursuant to section 212 of the Compact of Free Association between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Palau (48 U.S.C. 1931 note); and

(2) the trust fund is established and operated pursuant to an agreement entered into between the Government of the United States and the Government of the Republic of Palau.

SEC. 809. CLARIFICATION OF TAX-FREE STATUS OF TRUST FUNDS.

In the U.S.-RMI Compact, the U.S.-FSM Compact, and their respective trust fund subsidiary agreements, for the purposes of taxation by the United States or its subsidiary jurisdictions, the term "State" means "State, territory, or the District of Columbia".

SEC. 810. TRANSFER OF NAVAL VESSELS TO CERTAIN FOREIGN RECIPIENTS.

(a) TRANSFERS BY GRANT.—The President is authorized to transfer vessels to foreign countries on a grant basis under section 516 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2321j), as follows:

(1) TURKEY.—To the Government of Turkey—

(A) the OLIVER HAZARD PERRY class guided missile frigates GEORGE PHILIP (FFG-12) and SIDES (FFG-14); and

(B) the OSPREY class minehunter coastal ship BLACKHAWK (MHC-58).

(2) LITHUANIA.—To the Government of Lithuania, the OSPREY class minehunter coastal ships CORMORANT (MHC-57) and KINGFISHER (MHC-56).

(b) TRANSFERS BY SALE.—The President is authorized to transfer vessels to foreign recipients on a sale basis under section 21 of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2761), as follows:

(1) TAIWAN.—To the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States (which is the Taiwan instrumentality designated pursuant to section 10(a) of the Taiwan Relations Act (22 U.S.C. 3309(a))), the OSPREY class minehunter coastal ships ORIOLE (MHC-55) and FALCON (MHC-59).

(2) TURKEY.—To the Government of Turkey, the OSPREY class minehunter coastal ship SHRIKE (MHC-62).

(c) GRANTS NOT COUNTED IN ANNUAL TOTAL OF TRANSFERRED EXCESS DEFENSE ARTICLES.—The value of a vessel transferred to a recipient on a grant basis pursuant to authority provided by subsection (a) shall not be counted against the aggregate value of excess defense articles transferred in any fiscal year under section 516(g) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961.

(d) COSTS OF TRANSFERS.—Any expense incurred by the United States in connection with a transfer authorized by this section shall be charged to the recipient.

(e) REPAIR AND REFURBISHMENT IN UNITED STATES SHIPYARDS.—To the maximum extent practicable, the President shall require, as a condition of the transfer of a vessel under this section, that the recipient to which the vessel is transferred have such repair or refurbishment of the vessel as is needed before the vessel joins the naval forces of the recipient performed at a shipyard located in the United States, including a United States Navy shipyard.

(f) EXPIRATION OF AUTHORITY.—The authority to transfer a vessel under this section shall expire at the end of the 2-year period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL) and the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from West Virginia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from West Virginia?

There was no objection.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to call up this legislation which is comprised of 61 separate measures that were already considered by this body, packaged by the Senate, and sent back to us for further and final consideration. This is a bipartisan package, almost evenly split between bills sponsored by Democrats and Republicans.

Further, I would note that 57 of the measures included in this package originated in the Committee on Natural Resources. In this regard, I salute the committee's Chairs who worked so hard on this legislation:

RAÚL GRIJALVA, chairman of the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands; GRACE NAPOLITANO, chairwoman of the Subcommittee on Water and Power, and DONNA CHRISTENSEN, chairwoman of the Subcommittee on Insular Affairs.

In this body, these three Members did all of the heavy lifting, the hearings, the managing of the individual bills on the floor, the listening from other Members of this body that helped to make the package we are considering today possible.

The pending measures include new protections for wilderness, national parks, historic sites and trails, and precious water resources from sea to shining sea.

I will not speak to each and every provision of this legislation today but would like to highlight two in particular.

This bill will finally designate the long-awaited Wild Sky Wilderness in Washington State, championed by our colleague, RICK LARSEN. As I noted last week when the House considered wilderness legislation for my home State of West Virginia, to be in a wilderness area is truly a humbling experience. To be part of designating the wilderness is even more humbling because wilderness is an effort to retain the landscape as God created it. And as with God's good graces, we are working toward designating new wilderness areas in West Virginia today.

Let this be the next-to-last action, other than the President's signature, on establishing the Wild Sky Wilderness in the State of Washington.

□ 1430

The other measure I would like to highlight would finally bring badly needed immigration, national security and labor protections for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Further, this legislation would also grant a nonvoting delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives to the Northern Mariana Islands.

For too long, abuses took place in the CNMI, and for too long remedial legislation was held hostage in this body. Let this legislation bring forth a new dawn, the start of a new era with

a delegate to this body, that the people of the CNMI's voices be heard.

Again, I want to thank the gentlelady from the Virgin Islands, the chairman of the Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Dr. DONNA CHRISTENSEN, for her great work on this matter.

There are other issues of note in this bill. It would expand parks in Maine, Massachusetts, North Carolina, Washington and Idaho. It would improve visitor transportation options at Denali National Park and Acadia National Park. And it would expand and increase the authorization for the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom. Three new national heritage areas and nine existing areas will receive Federal assistance under this measure. Seven other areas will be examined as possible new park units.

This bill would also authorize Federal participation in new and expanded water recycling projects around the west, projects which will provide an estimated 52,600 acre-feet of water annually in an area experiencing severe drought.

It's a good bill, Mr. Speaker. I urge all Members to vote for this package.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, Senate bill 2739 contains around 62 provisions, and I am pleased to see that they're finally on their way to the President's desk. However, this bill is also a testament to the dysfunction of a certain body on the other side of this Rotunda.

Many of the sections of this bill are unable to stand on their own and have subsequently been bundled into a \$300 million brew to avoid individual scrutiny. To solve the problem and avoid the discomfort of saying "no," this omnibus was created with enough prizes that inevitably the bad will be overlooked and everything, the good, the bad and the ugly, will be able to cross the finish line.

Many of these provisions were passed by this House last year, so it's nice to say that finally something is coming out of the Senate, even if it's coming in this very poor form. But in other ways this bill is also symbolic of this session. We have wasted time and then glob everything together and throw it together with one fell swoop without the ability of scrutinizing it as individual issues, and at the same time miss essential bills that address critical needs.

This legislation deals with land where energy opportunities do exist, and yet once again we are moving forward with gas approaching \$4 a gallon. Today, the average price of gasoline in the United States was \$3.61. That's \$1.28 for gasoline, \$1.57 for diesel, 55 and 59 percent above what it was at the beginning of the 110th Congress. And still, with no plan to solve this issue, we pass bills that exacerbate this conundrum.

This particular bill is full of new designations intended to draw tourists, but the only sightseeing that's going to be done in this country will be from the couch watching the Travel Channel if we don't address our fuel crisis. Every time we pass feel-good natural resource legislation with warm and fuzzy titles, we must consider the damage being done to our ability to provide for ourselves. We have locked up so much of our public land from energy development that we are now seeing the results at the pump, and these are our priorities.

What else do we do? Our solution is to offer biofuels; in other words, we want to burn food to power cars. Not only is this immoral, it is devastating. Third World countries now unable to afford food to feed their starving children. These are our priorities.

We could have used forest mass that's dead every year, it would have been perfect cellulose for production of energy and at the same time save our forests from catastrophic fires, but such was specifically prohibited in the "no energy" bill that passed this Congress recently. So, these are our consequences.

We discussed many of the sections in this bill individually when they first came to the House floor in 2007. We did it the right way, even if I disagreed with some of the outcomes we decided. Unfortunately, they are back without improvements that would have made them palatable.

I don't believe private property rights are adequately protected in any of the heritage areas in this bill. And I question why the amendment to protect second amendment rights, which was overwhelmingly passed on the House floor, was stripped from this package. It is flat out wrong to have done that. It is almost unfathomable that the Senate would do such a thing and that we would consider passing this bill with that significant provision not there. Yet again, the second amendment and property rights take a back seat to misguided priorities of the other body.

As I stated earlier, there are a few positives I am pleased to support. Congressmen WILSON and BROWN of South Carolina have worked to get the "Swamp Fox" General Francis Marion Memorial to the President. I congratulate them. Minority Whip BLUNT has labored to authorize the Newtonia Civil War Battlefields study that we will move today. I thank him for his fine work. My Resource Committee colleague, Congressman LOUIS GOHMERT from Texas, has an important study to honor the Space Shuttle, *Columbia*, and I'm pleased that this is included in Senate 2739. Resource Committee Ranking Member DON YOUNG has several provisions that will benefit the country and his constituents in Alaska, and I thank him for his tireless efforts and advocacy on their behalf.

Finally, of all the provisions, probably the best one is a dam bill provision for my congressional district. This

provision would authorize the Bureau of Reclamation to do a feasibility study on raising the height of the Arthur V. Watkins Dam in Box Elder County. And given the shortage of water in the West, by increasing storage capacity of this vital reservoir, the residents of my congressional district will have a more secure water supply and water future.

Having already spent too many hours debating these bills when they came before us that now make up this legislative Frankenstein, I see no need to prolong this much longer.

I will reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to a senior member of our Committee on Natural Resources, Mr. DEFAZIO from Oregon.

Mr. DEFAZIO. I thank the chairman. This legislation includes legislation earlier passed by this House, H.R. 247, endorsed by all the members of the Oregon delegation, to recognize the Jim Weaver Trail.

In 1964, the original Wilderness Act put a lot of high elevation Oregon into wilderness, but it left out our precious forests and our old growth. Ten years later, Oregon's most persistent champion of wilderness, Jim Weaver, was elected to the United States Congress. Despite the fact that he represented the largest public timber-producing district in the country, Jim engaged in a battle over the next 10 years to set aside some of Oregon's most beautiful forests for future generations. He engaged in the first fights to preserve old growth, fights which are continuing to this day.

The Forest Service originally recommended 370,000 acres for wilderness designation in Oregon. Jim upped the ante a little bit to 1.2 million. He had very, very tough and difficult negotiations with the Senate, and in the end he and Senator Hatfield were able to settle on 861,500 acres, not everything Jim wanted, but a tremendous legacy for our future.

At the very last minute, Jim got Grassy Knob added and Monument Rock protected. And then one of the toughest things that he had to do, he was asked by Senator Hatfield did he want Hardesty Mountain or did he want Waldo. Jim chose Waldo. And so it's extremely appropriate that this House acts today to name the trail which encompasses pristine Waldo Lake as the Jim Weaver Trail. And future generations of Oregonians utilizing that trail will begin to understand the history and the fight that went into preserving some of their most precious wildlands, a fight which I'm attempting to continue with wilderness legislation this year, and a fight with the BLM over their attempts to harvest the last of our precious old growth.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 5 minutes to the gentlelady from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT).

Mrs. BIGGERT. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 2739, which includes the provisions of H.R. 85, a bill called the Energy Technology Transfer Act that I introduced with my Science and Technology Committee colleague from North Carolina (Mr. MILLER). The House approved our bill by a vote of 395-1 back in March of last year. And this is so important, Mr. Speaker, that it is now before this House again, and I appreciate it.

Mr. Speaker, the Federal Government spends billions every year on energy-related research and development for our universities and national laboratories. The result is often new technologies that exponentially reduce our consumption of energy or encourage the use of alternative fuels and thus reduce our dependence on foreign sources of energy. But the biggest challenge to realizing these energy savings is getting these technologies out of the laboratory and into the marketplace where they can benefit all energy end users. Whether we're talking about a business owner, a homeowner, a county or local government officials, these energy end users may be hesitant to embrace advanced or alternative technologies with which they are not familiar, have little experience, or which may require new infrastructure.

To help energy end users embrace these new technologies, section 917 of the Energy Policy Act (EPACT) of 2005 directed the Department of Energy to create a geographically dispersed network of energy efficiency technology transfer centers to help in this process. This bill will simply improve that section 917 of EPACT, and instead of creating from scratch these network centers, H.R. 85 authorizes the DOE to provide grants to and partner with existing community outreach networks. These existing networks could include Cooperative Extension Systems—just like what we have seen with the farms—offices, State energy offices, local governments, institutions of higher education, and nonprofit organizations with expertise in energy technologies or outreach. And so instead of limiting these centers to the transfer of energy efficiency technologies, it also expands their mission to include all advanced energy technologies and requires grantees to provide feedback to DOE on the energy research needs identified by these energy end users.

I just want to give you one example of what I'm talking about in Chicago and how this program might work. Before expanding their frozen pizza production plant in Illinois, Home Run Inn Pizza consulted with the University of Illinois—Chicago's Energy Resource Center. After conducting an assessment of the plant and its operations, the UIC Energy Resource Center identified nine ways that the Home Run Inn Pizza could reduce their energy consumption and energy costs. Using advanced energy technologies developed as a result of the DOE-funded research, Home Run Inn Pizza could re-

duce natural gas consumption by 15 percent and electricity consumption by 5 to 6 percent, saving a total of about \$15,000 annually.

So with the enactment of H.R. 85, the UIC Energy Resource Center and other cooperative extension and community outreach organizations could add capacity and expertise to help many, many companies, building managers, homebuilders and homeowners use the technology to save energy and money.

So the bill represents just a small investment in the tech transfer capabilities that we need to help our universities and labs move advanced energy technologies from labs into the market so Americans can enjoy the tangible benefits of our Federal investment in R&D.

I want to thank my colleague, Mr. MILLER from North Carolina, for his strong interest in tech transfer and for being the lead Democrat on this bill. I want to thank Chairman GORDON and Ranking Member HALL for recognizing the value of this bill and moving it through the committee, Senators BINGAMAN and DOMENICI and the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee for approving this bill and including it in S. 2739. Finally, I want to thank the chairman and ranking member of the Natural Resources Committee and the House Republican and Democrat leadership for bringing this package of bills to the floor today and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I have already commended her profusely, but I want to once again thank the chairwoman of our Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, DONNA CHRISTENSEN, from the Virgin Islands for the hard work and long hours that she has put in on this legislation. I now yield her 3 minutes.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for those kind remarks. And I am pleased to rise in support of S. 2739, which includes two bills that I sponsored, H.R. 3079, the CNMI Immigration, Security, and Labor Act (ISLA), which also includes the NMI Delegate Act, and H.R. 2705, the Compacts of Free Association Amendments Act of 2007. Both were unanimously passed by this Chamber this year.

ISLA resolves two issues which have been before this Congress for decades. First, it would extend U.S. immigration laws to the CNMI. And second, it would authorize a CNMI nonvoting delegate to serve in this body beginning in the 111th Congress.

For two decades, the CNMI has had local control over immigration policy, and it has never been represented in this Chamber. For those unheard voices, for the prosperity of those islands, and for the security of our Nation, the path should now lead in a different direction.

ISLA provides the needed policy flexibility to transition immigration from local to Federal control. It ensures that employers can fill jobs, residents receive vocational training, non-resident guest workers be protected,

the region's economy be diversified, and the Marianas archipelago be strategically secure.

□ 1445

H.R. 2705 makes technical corrections to the Compact Agreements of 2003 and ushers in a new disaster assistance regime between FEMA and USAID for the FAS.

I'm grateful to Chairman RAHALL for his commitment to prioritize issues affecting U.S. territories in the Freely Associated States. I thank the committee ranking member, Mr. YOUNG, and the subcommittee ranking member, Mr. FORTUÑO. I also want to thank the staff of the subcommittee.

I want to especially acknowledge Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA and Ms. BORDALLO, both members of the subcommittee, for traveling with me to the CNMI to conduct our hearing. They are tireless in their support of the subcommittee's agenda, and Ms. BORDALLO worked closely with me to ensure that the interests of all the people in the Marianas, as well as the priorities for our Nation's security, were included in ISLA.

I urge my colleagues to pass S. 2739.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF).

(Mr. WOLF asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, first I want to thank the ranking member, Mr. BISHOP, for his fairness as we went through this process. And I want to thank the chairman, Mr. RAHALL, for his leadership in moving this. I am very, very grateful.

I want to rise in support of this bill, which includes a provision to establish the Journey Through Hallowed Ground National Heritage Area. Establishing this heritage area spans 175 miles through four States.

The Journey Through Hallowed Ground winds its way along U.S. Route 15 from Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, to Jefferson's home of Monticello in Charlottesville, Virginia. Starting as a trail used by the Susquehannock and Iroquois, America's early history can literally be traced along this corridor. Jefferson's Monticello, Madison's Montpelier, Monroe's Oak Hill and Ashlawn Highland, Zachary Taylor's homes, Eisenhower's cottage, Teddy Roosevelt's cabin, John Marshall's home, General George Marshall's home, and Camp David are situated along this route, which is also dotted with numerous Civil War battlefields.

I close with Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, spoken at the northern terminus of the Journey Through Hallowed Ground corridor and signifies the history, and he said:

"We cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men and women, living and dead, who struggled here, have hallowed it far above our poor power to add or detract."

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I want to yield 2 minutes to another of our subcommittee chairwomen who has put in long hours and very hard work on this legislation, the chairwoman of the Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife and Oceans (Ms. BORDALLO).

Ms. BORDALLO. I thank Chairman RAHALL for yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 2739, and I urge my colleagues to vote to pass it and send it to the President's desk. I underscore my support for subtitle B of title VII of this comprehensive, important legislation, which provides for the election and the seating of a delegate representing the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Guam and the people of the Northern Marianas are neighbors, and we share a common heritage. This bill is the product of careful deliberation and bipartisan cooperation. Many Members have worked diligently to shape it into the form in which it has arrived on the floor today. And for this reason and for the leadership brought to bear in drafting the CNMI title and responding to the concerns and interests of stakeholders on Guam, I want to thank very much Chairman NICK RAHALL and Insular Affairs Subcommittee Chairwoman DONNA CHRISTENSEN.

The CNMI delegate provision represents the beginning of a stronger partnership for this body with the people of the Northern Marianas. I look forward to welcoming a new delegate in this hall and to that day next January when Members will take the oath with a new colleague representing the CNMI.

This House has a strong record of affording U.S. territories representation in Congress. To date, Mr. Speaker, 188 delegates and 32 resident commissioners have served ably in this House over the course of its history. It is a tradition that dates back to 1790, with the Northwest Ordinance areas, and today we continue this tradition by extending a long overdue voice for the people of the Northern Marianas. The CNMI should be afforded the honor and given the responsibility of electing a delegate to represent their interests.

This is about democracy and representation. The compelling case for representation for the CNMI has finally been made. So vote for S. 2739.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to a member of our Committee on Natural Resources, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. INSLEE).

(Mr. INSLEE asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend this bill for two reasons.

First, the passage of the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Monument

Act. It is long overdue. We will finally present a monument to a chapter in American history that should never be a occasioned again. On March 30, 1942, on Bainbridge Island, Washington, the island where I live, the United States Army rounded up 227 people living on Bainbridge Island, put them on a ferry boat, shipped them by trains to a camp in Manzanar for the duration of the war, totally without legality. And 62 of those people subsequently served in World War II.

Two years ago a 95-year-old woman, Fumiko Hayashida, came to Congress and testified about the pain that episode caused her and all of America. And this dedication of a monument on Bainbridge Island will serve as a monument to all Americans of all future generations that we should never ever allow the power of fear to overcome the promise of liberty. This monument will serve to do that.

I want to thank the great work of people on Bainbridge Island: Fumiko Hayashida, Frank Kitamoto, Clarence Moriwaki; Senator CANTWELL and others who worked on this bill. And I invite all Americans to come see this monument when it's completed.

I would also like to congratulate my colleague RICK LARSEN and Senator MURRAY for their incredible work, who really set the model of how to do wilderness legislation in finally today passing the Wild Sky Wilderness. I sat on top of Berry Mountain a couple years ago and looked down, and I want to thank them for their great leadership so that my grandchild will be able to look down from the top of Berry Mountain and see the same wilderness; and to their allies, Tom Uniack, Mike Towns, and Jon Owen, all of who really created a model of how to do future wildernesses. Thank you very much, Rick and others, and I congratulate all of us for final passage of these great pieces of work.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I have commended this gentleman in my opening remarks because he truly has worked hard over a number of years for a major part of this package. It is a highlight of the package, and I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. LARSEN) to explain it.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the bipartisan Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008, which includes legislation I introduced to create the first new wilderness area in Washington State in over 20 years. The Wild Sky Wilderness will be unique, protecting 106,000 acres of pristine forests and streams in my district, while providing a clean and accessible place to hunt, to fish, and to hike.

My staff first met on this issue on February 20, 2001, 48 days into my first term. And now 2,625 or so days later, we are ready to pass the Wild Sky Wilderness bill as part of the broader bill and send it to the President's desk.

The Wild Sky Wilderness Act is a carefully crafted piece of legislation that reflects years of community input. It will protect the peaks, the forests, and the lakes of the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, as well as thousands of acres of lower-elevation forests and salmon-bearing streams.

The bill has been vetted through a 7-year process of hearings, debate, local town hall meetings. It started out as a much larger bill, but through a series of compromises and through a process of inclusiveness, we came up with the bill that now stands before you today as part of the larger bill. And it would not have been possible without the help of many people here in Congress and in the Second District. Large businesses like REI, smaller businesses like a small bed and breakfast located in Index support this bill. It garners the support of Democrats and Republicans alike in Washington State. But deserving special recognition here in Congress are people like Chairman NICK RAHALL and his staff, led by Jim Zoia and Rick Healy. This proposal went through a 7-year process and is soon to become law as it goes to the President's desk.

I also want to thank my partner on the Senate side, Senator PATTY MURRAY. Creating the Wild Sky Wilderness bill would not have been possible without her hard work and strong leadership in the Senate.

So I ask my colleagues today to support the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008 and know that when you do that, you will be helping to create the first wilderness bill for Washington State in over 20 years. I urge passage of this legislation.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BROUN).

(Mr. BROUN of Georgia asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. "Whereas, whenever kings, instead of protecting the lives and property of their subjects, as is their bounden duty, do endeavor to perpetrate the destruction of either, they thereby cease to be kings, become tyrants, and dissolve all ties of allegiance between themselves and their people . . ." This was stated by Benjamin Franklin in his preamble to a congressional resolution.

Mr. Speaker, legislation should never attempt to seize land from the public and restrict its use. Property rights are a central institution of western civilization, and they're an essential ingredient in freedom. The Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008 is a violation of the basic principles that our Founding Fathers set out to prevent. Congress continues to ignore, neglect, disparage, and not understand its importance.

The Federal Government already owns nearly 650 million acres of land, half of which experience severe maintenance problems and backlogs. This leg-

islation threatens recreation, user access, grazing, mining, oil and gas exploration, and many other public uses. By restricting access to land for exploration, this legislation is limiting the potential of the economy and directly interfering with America's entrepreneurial drive.

Do we know for certain that fossil fuels are not contained in these lands? At a time when gas is nearly \$4 a gallon, the very last thing we should be doing is permanently restricting access to this land.

Government abuse is increasing on all levels, and a vote for S. 2739 is a vote for an increase in the size and scope of government. We must protect America's right to utilize and to prosper from the land.

John Dickinson, a signer of the Constitution, declared: "Let these truths be indelibly impressed on our minds: that we cannot be happy without being free; that we cannot be free without being secure in our property; that we cannot be secure in our property if, without our consent, others may as by right take it away."

God's Word, the Holy Bible, says: "In the multitude of words, sin is not lacking." Mr. Speaker, there's a lot of sin in this bill.

Stop increasing government control and regulation of American property owners and vote "no" on S. 2739.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, a simple response to the gentleman who just spoke. There's no eminent domain authority whatsoever granted in this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Connecticut, a very valued Member that has worked hard on this bill and has done a superb job, and I want to commend Mr. COURTNEY for his leadership and work on this legislation.

□ 1500

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I want to salute Chairman RAHALL and Subcommittee Chairman GRIJALVA for the hard work that both of these individuals did to bring this legislation to the floor today. It took persistent leadership to, again, get 61 measures all here, ready for vote and final passage and transmittal to the White House.

Included in this bill, section 344, is the language which was included in H.R. 986 legislation, which we debated and passed last July, the designation of the Eightmile River in Connecticut, Wild and Scenic designation. This is an effort that has taken 10 years in the State of Connecticut. It's a river that is 8 miles long, extends from East Haddam through Salem, into Lyme, and then to Hamburg Cove on Long Island Sound.

It is one of the most pristine treasures in a highly densely populated part of the country, one of the original colonies, where we respect property rights dearly in the State of Connecticut. Over that 10-year period, a balanced process was followed, which brought

consensus among all the communities, bipartisan support, the Republican Governor of Connecticut, the entire delegation from Connecticut, and particularly Senator DODD, who led the fight in the Senate for passage. And the communities who have worked so hard to preserve this extraordinary body of water are, again, anxious and excited to see final passage, which will take the Eightmile River and make it part of the family of rivers that have received the Wild and Scenic designation over the 40 years of that act's existence in this country, 160 rivers.

Again, I want to salute the Resources Committee for the hard work that they did to make sure that the Eightmile River plan will now become a reality.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. I continue to reserve.

Mr. RAHALL. I am prepared to close on this side, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, this Frankenstein bill that we have before us has a whole lot of good stuff in it. It also has a whole lot of bad stuff in there, things that could be cataclysmic consequences to this particular country.

One of the things that is so sad is the process in which we are involved. I realize it's regular order, but it's still a sad process. We have germaneness rules that are very loose. The Senate has germaneness rules that are even looser. Former Senator Gene McCarthy said, The Senate has rules, but no one knows what they are so it doesn't really matter.

Bringing a bill in this pattern with these many provisions over here is something that would never be allowed in most legislative bodies within our States. One of the things we should learn as a body is sometimes it is best if we actually deal with bills on an individual basis in a timely manner. I realize part of this problem cannot be laid at the hands of the chairman of our committee because it's actually dealing with the other body on the other side, which decided to lump everything together as a big glob and just throw it at us.

At the same time, it should be a lesson for us to learn that if we really want to reform the system so that we have actual input on bills in a timely fashion and timely manner, we should have one issue, one bill, one vote, and plumping everything together is simply poor parts of legislation. For all the good that is in this bill, and there is much good, as well as the bad, and there is some bad, it still is the wrong process that we should be engaged.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned in my opening remarks, this is 60-some pieces of legislation in this bill, and it may not be perfect, but it's the nature of the beast, as the process is. Of the 60-some measures in this legislation, 57 that went through our committee on

Natural Resources were pretty well examined. They weren't just thrown into this bill without any consideration whatsoever. Either in this Congress or the previous Congress, these bills have had hearings on them. I mentioned the subcommittee process that worked its will in our Committee on Natural Resources. So this bill has had pretty careful scrutiny.

I'd like to conclude by commending the majority leader of the other body, Mr. REID. He has called me on this legislation. It passed through the other body after a tortuous process. The final vote over there was 91-4. I also want to commend the Chairman of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee on the other side, Mr. BINGAMAN, for his work and his tenacity.

Again, I commend my ranking member, the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) and the subcommittee ranking member, Mr. BISHOP, and the staffs on both sides of our committee on Natural Resources for the long hours that they have put in on this legislation. It is indeed, as the process goes, an excellent piece of legislation, and I am very proud and highly commend it to my colleagues for passage and on to the President for his signature.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this Senate-passed bill, and urge that it be passed and sent to the President for signing into law.

It gathers into one omnibus measure some 60 bills—dealing with various public land, national park, water, and territorial issues—that have already been passed by the House but on which the Senate has not taken separate action. To expedite their consideration, Senator BINGAMAN, the Chairman of the other body's Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, gathered them into one package after most if not all of them had been favorably reported by that committee and been pending on the Senate calendar for some time. Each part of the package is important, but I want to highlight three.

PRODUCED WATER LEGISLATION

Section 514, entitled "More Water, More Energy, Less Waste," is based on my bill, H.R. 902, the "More Water and More Energy Act," which passed the House last year.

Its purpose is to facilitate the use of water produced in connection with development of energy resources for irrigation and other uses in ways that will not adversely affect water quality or the environment.

I think there is a possibility that it can help change an energy-industry problem into an opportunity, not just for oil and gas producers but for everyone else who would benefit from increased supplies of useable water. And especially in the arid west, that covers everyone—not least our hard-pressed ranchers and farmers.

The focus of the section is the underground water extracted in connection with development of energy sources like oil, natural gas or coalbed methane. It would do two things:

First, it would direct the Bureau of Reclamation and the USGS to identify the obstacles to greater use of produced water and how those obstacles could be reduced or eliminated without adversely affecting water quality or the environment.

Second, it would provide for Federal help in building pilot plants to demonstrate ways to treat produced water to make it suitable for irrigation or other uses, again without adversely affecting water quality or the environment. At least one of these pilot plants would be in each of the States in the Upper Basin of the Colorado River—that is, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming—and at least one would be in one of the States in the Colorado River's lower basin—Arizona, California, and Nevada. This is to assure that, together, the plants would demonstrate techniques applicable to a variety of geologic and other conditions. The Federal Government could pay up to half the cost of building each plant, but no more than \$1 million for any one plant. No Federal funds could be used for operating the plants.

The extent of the potential benefits was shown by the testimony of Mr. David Templet at a hearing on the similar bill of mine the House considered in the 109th Congress.

Testifying on behalf of the Domestic Petroleum Council and several other groups, including the Colorado Oil & Gas Association, he noted that produced water is the most abundant byproduct associated with the production of oil and gas, with about 18 billion barrels being generated by onshore wells in 1995. And he pointed out that if only an additional 1 percent of that total could be put to beneficial use, the result would be to make over 75 billion gallons annually available for use for irrigation or other agriculture, municipal purposes, or to benefit fish and wildlife.

Now, remember that in the west we usually measure water by the acre-foot—the amount that would cover an acre to the depth of one foot—and an acre-foot is about 328,560 gallons, so an additional 75 billion gallons is more than 230,000 acre feet—more water, indeed.

And at the same time making produced water available for surface uses, instead of just reinjecting it into the subsurface, can help increase the production of oil and gas.

At the hearing, this was illustrated by the testimony of Dr. David Stewart, a registered professional engineer from Colorado. He cited the example of an oil field in California from which an estimated additional 150 million barrels of oil could be recovered if water were removed from the subsurface reservoir. And he pointed out that where oil recovery is thermally enhanced, a reduced amount of underground water means less steam—and so less cost—is needed to recover the oil.

The potential for having both more water and more energy is also illustrated by the example of a project near Wellington, Colorado, that treats produced water as a new water resource. I had the opportunity to visit it last year, and found it very interesting. An oil company is embarking on the project to increase oil production while a separate company will purchase the produced water to supplement existing supplies, eventually allowing the town of Wellington and other water users in the area to have increased water for drinking and other purposes.

In view of its potential for leading to both "more water" and "more energy" as well as "less waste," I was pleased but not surprised that the Administration, through the Interior Department, has testified that it "agrees that the goals of the bill are commendable and the needs that could be addressed are real." So,

I welcome the fact that the Senate has followed the lead of the House in approving this legislation, and I look forward to its enactment.

PLATTE RIVER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION LEGISLATION

Section 515 of this Senate-passed bill is also based on a bill (H.R. 1462) I introduced last year. It will authorize the Interior Department to participate in the implementation of the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program for Endangered Species in the Central and Lower Platte River Basin.

As I said when the House debated that bill, I consider myself fortunate to have the honor of introducing it, and am gratified that it was cosponsored by my Colorado colleagues, Representatives DEGETTE, SALAZAR, and PERLMUTTER, as well as the entire House delegations of our neighboring States of Wyoming and Nebraska.

Its purpose is to continue a cooperative effort involving the Federal Government and the States of Colorado, Nebraska, and Wyoming (and other entities and groups) aimed at recovery of endangered species in ways that will not involve the creation of Federal water rights or requiring the grant of water rights to Federal entities. It is the result of 14 years of negotiations that culminated in 2006 when the Governors of Colorado, Wyoming, and Nebraska joined Secretary Kempthorne in signing the agreement.

The program is modeled after a somewhat similar program for the recovery of several endangered species of fish in the upper basin of the Colorado River. I have strongly supported that program because it has enabled us in Colorado and other participating States to meet the requirements of the Endangered Species Act while allowing continued development and use of water for other purposes as well. While such arrangements are not easy to work out, I think doing so is far better than alternative approaches that are more likely to be marked by conflicts or litigation. So, I think all concerned in the negotiation of this important agreement are to be congratulated.

The Program has three main elements—(1) increasing stream flows in the central Platte River during relevant periods through retiming and water conservation/supply projects; (2) enhancing, restoring and protecting habitat lands for the target bird species; and (3) accommodating certain new water related activities. Its purpose is to benefit three endangered species (interior least tern, whooping crane, and pallid sturgeon) and one threatened species (piping plover) referred to as the "target species." The Federal Government is to pay half the cost, for which the total authorization would be \$157.14 million plus any needed inflation adjustments. Implementation of the Program will mitigate the adverse impacts of certain new water related activities through the implementation of state and federal depletions plans. This will allow continued growth and water development to occur in the Platte River basin along with improving conditions for the target species.

The legislation is important for Colorado and our neighbors in Wyoming and Nebraska. I am glad that the Senate has approved it and look forward to its becoming law.

NORTHERN MARIANAS LEGISLATION

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I want to note that Title VII of the bill before us includes important provisions related to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, or CNMI.

Subtitle A of that Title responds to long-standing Federal concerns regarding immigration, labor, and law enforcement in the CNMI.

Its enactment will bring completion, at long last, to more than a decade of congressional and executive branch efforts to extend the U.S. immigration laws to the CNMI including the establishment of Federal border control as anticipated by the 1976 covenant agreement between the CNMI and the United States.

And Subtitle B will enable the citizens of the CNMI—who have been U.S. citizens and members of the U.S. family for over 20 years—to elect a Delegate to the House of Representatives, a necessary step if we are to keep faith with our Nation's founding principle of representative government.

The CNMI, a U.S. Territory located in the western Pacific Ocean, is an archipelago comprised of fourteen islands. The majority of CNMI's population lives on three of the most southern islands: its capital Saipan, Rota, and Tinian. At the end of World War II, along with most of the other islands in the Micronesian region, they were included in a United Nations Strategic Trust Territory administered by the United States. In the early 1970's, the Northern Marianas sought greater self-government, and in 1975 submitted a "Covenant" proposal to the U.S. for final approval. After favorable consideration by Congress, that Covenant, which established the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in political union with the United States, was signed into law in 1976 by President Gerald Ford.

During the negotiations over the Covenant, island officials expressed concern about possible adverse effects on their culture and economic development that could come from application of certain U.S. laws. In response, the Marianas government was given temporary responsibility for determining minimum wage laws, immigration standards, and an income tax system.

Beginning in the late 1980s, the CNMI focused on developing a garment industry and used its local control of immigration policy to allow for the recruitment and importation of foreign guest workers. But there were increasing reports of abuses.

For example, after visiting the islands in July, 1997, the U.S. Commission on Immigration Reform reported it had found problems "ranging from bureaucratic inefficiencies to labor abuses to an unsustainable economic, social and political system that is antithetical to most American values," including exploitation of foreign workers with retaliation against protesters, suppression of basic freedoms, and flagrant abuses of household workers, agricultural workers, and bar girls. The Commission said the CNMI's guest-worker policy had created major policy problems and resulted in a two-class system where the majority of workers were denied political and social rights.

That and similar reports prompted efforts to achieve reforms through Federal legislation, and both the George H. W. Bush Administration and the Clinton Administration were concerned about repeated allegations that foreign guest workers were being mistreated and exploited. Both Administrations supported addressing the problem through legal reforms.

I have long supported those reforms. In 1999—my first year as a Representative from Colorado—I joined as a cosponsor of a bill a bill entitled the "United States-Commonwealth

of the Northern Marianas Human Dignity Act" to bar use of the "Made in the USA" label on textiles produced in the CNMI unless they were produced in plants that conformed with American labor laws, including those aimed at protecting health and safety and guarding against exploitation.

And ever since, I have supported similar legislation, including the bill (H.R. 3079, the "Northern Mariana Islands Immigration, Security, and Labor Act") which passed the House last year and which is the basis for Subtitle A of Title VII of the bill before us today.

I did so, in part, because in September, 1999, the Committee on Resources (as it was then named) held an oversight hearing regarding the enforcement of federal laws and the use of federal funds in the CNMI at which officials of the Interior Department and the Departments of Justice and Labor, testified that reform legislation was needed.

As the witness from the Justice Department put it, "in order to control crime in the CNMI, the U.S. government must be able to prevent criminals from gaining unlimited access to the islands. We cannot expect to stop the flow of drugs, or guns, or trafficking in women and forced prostitution, unless we keep out the people who we know are already committing these crimes" and "the only way to fight effectively the larger crime problem on the CNMI is to apply the Act as it is applied in other U.S. jurisdictions with appropriate transitional phase-in provisions to prevent avoidable adverse impacts on the economy." And the witness from the Labor Department told our committee that "there are extremely serious, pervasive, and stubbornly persist[ing] immigration, labor, and human rights problems in the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas" which "derive from systematic, structural weaknesses in the legal framework in the Commonwealth and any solution to these problems demands a comprehensive, structural solution."

In short, in the words of the witness from the Interior Department, "current Federal law is insufficient to correct the continuing inadequacies caused by CNMI immigration and labor policy" and "the need to apply . . . Federal immigration, wage, and trade standards is inescapable."

Unfortunately Mr. Speaker, while responsible Federal officials saw the need as inescapable, for too long Congress did not act to meet that need. In part, that was because those responsible for some of the worse abuses had friends in powerful positions here in the House of Representatives.

That evidently was why the then-leadership of the House refused to even allow the House to debate a reform bill (S. 1052 of the 106th Congress) sponsored by the Republican Senator who chaired the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources that passed the Senate without dissent in 2000.

Instead of being brought to the House floor, like this bill, that measure was bottled up in the Resources Committee and Jack Abramoff, the lobbyist who represented some of its most important opponents, reportedly informed his clients that "We erected a roadblock in the House to stop the bill from moving."

But now that roadblock is gone, and today we can write an end to that sad chapter by approving reforms that have been delayed far too long.

Mr. Speaker, this is a good bill that deserves enactment, and I urge the House to approve it.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, the House of Representatives is being asked to swallow this colossal Senate lands bill without any Member having the opportunity to offer amendments or provide input. This is an abdication of our duties as elected Representatives and it means good legislation will continue to sit lingering and waiting for action in the Senate because it's not been included in this packaged bill.

There are parts of this massive bill that I do support. In fact, I am the sponsor and author of the bill, H.R. 386, that will convey certain buildings and land from the Bureau of Reclamation to the Yakima-Tieton Irrigation District. This measure will allow for greater local control of property that is already being used for irrigation purposes. It will also allow the irrigation district to make needed improvements. H.R. 386 passed the House by a vote of 417–0 in February, 2007 and I am pleased that the Senate finally acted on this bipartisan piece of legislation.

However, this package excludes many other House passed bills that have been awaiting Senate action, including two of which are of particular interest to me and communities in Central Washington state.

The first bill, H.R. 523, passed the House last October by a vote of 377 to zero. This bill would allow for the sale of several parcels of property from the Bureau of Land Management to the Douglas County PUD for both ease and efficiency of management, while ensuring environmental protections. Additionally, the funds generated from this sale would be put towards improving public access to existing BLM lands in Washington state. This creates an opportunity to address some long-standing needs to improve public access to public lands in my state, including for recreation at the Juniper Dunes area. Having passed the House over six months ago without dissent, and also being subject of a positive Senate hearing in February, there is no reason that this bill shouldn't be part of this package.

Second, I am frustrated that the Senate did not include H.R. 1285, the Snoqualmie Pass Land Conveyance Act. This legislation would help facilitate the construction of a modern fire station to serve both local communities and interstate freeway travelers crossing Snoqualmie Pass. The Snoqualmie Pass Fire and Rescue is often the first to respond to emergencies through the pass. This heavily traveled area often sees major snowstorms as well as avalanches. This bill passed the House last July by voice vote and it merits passage by the Senate and to be signed into law.

Instead of action on these two bills, there is indefinite delay and no apparent plan for action. I will not be allowed to offer an amendment to add these two non-controversial bills to this Senate package. The House is only given the choice of passing this bill.

I have heard some of my colleagues in both the House and the Senate claim that this conglomerate Senate bill mainly includes bills that passed out of the House of Representatives and enjoy strong bipartisan support. Both H.R. 523 as well as H.R. 1285 fit both of those criteria. Why then were they not included in S. 2739 when other bills were included that have never passed the House or had prior Senate Committee approval?

I am frustrated and disappointed at the closed manner in which the House is being

forced to vote on this bill. Furthermore, I am concerned at the enormous expansion of federal land ownership and management responsibilities created by this bill when we are not currently able to meet our public lands existing maintenance needs. It is ironic that both of the bills that have been left out of this legislation would, in a responsible way, actually decrease and relieve these demands and stress on current capabilities.

For these reasons, I must vote against this bill.

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 2739, the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008. This measure, recently approved by the Senate, includes a number of measures that earlier had been approved by the House of Representatives, including H.R. 2094, a bill that I sponsored with Representatives JERRY MORAN, TODD TIAHRT, NANCY BOYDA, LEONARD BOSWELL, and MAC THORNBERRY. As an Executive Committee member of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial Commission, I know that this legislation is important to our continuing efforts to establish a National, permanent memorial to President Eisenhower. H.R. 2094 would make important amendments to the statute establishing the Eisenhower Memorial Commission, so that it can more effectively discharge its duties.

Congress created the Eisenhower Memorial Commission in 1999 and charged the Commission with establishing a National memorial to Dwight David Eisenhower to honor his memory and commemorate his contributions to the nation. The Commission is completely bipartisan, consisting of four Senators, four Representatives, and four private citizens. The Commission keeps an office in Washington, DC, with four full-time staff, including an Executive Director and Executive Architect.

Since determining a preferred site in June 2005, the Commission has worked tirelessly to speed the progress of the memorialization. In September 2006, only fifteen months later, the Commission received final site approval from the National Capital Planning Commission and the Commission of Fine Arts. The National Eisenhower Memorial will be located across the street from the National Air and Space Museum at the intersection of Maryland and Independence Avenues, SW. The site is surrounded by institutions like either created or profoundly influenced, including the Department of Education.

The Commission is now engaged in Pre-Design Programming, a concerted effort to determine what the memorial should be. Eisenhower family members, Eisenhower contemporaries, historians, Kansans, and many others have been interviewed on their vision for the memorial. A voluntary online questionnaire is available to the public. Although there are many diverse opinions on Ike's greatest achievement and the appropriate focus for his memorial, all agree that Eisenhower is, as Michael Korda presents in his new biography, "an American hero."

I am particularly proud to claim one of the greatest 20th-century Americans as a fellow Kansan. He ranks as one of the preeminent figures in the global history of the 20th century. Dwight Eisenhower spent his entire life in public service. His most well-known contributions include serving as Supreme Commander of the Allied Expeditionary Forces in World War II and as 34th President of the United States, but Eisenhower also served as the first

commander of NATO and as President of Columbia University. Dramatic changes occurred in America during his lifetime, many of which he participated in and influenced through his extraordinary leadership as President. Although Ike grew up before automobiles existed, he created the Interstate Highway System and took America into space. He created NASA, the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, and the Federal Aviation Administration. He added Hawaii and Alaska to the United States and ended the Korean War. President Eisenhower desegregated the District of Columbia and sent federal troops into Little Rock, Arkansas, to enforce school integration. He defused international crises and inaugurated the national security policies that guided the nation for the next three decades, leading to the peaceful end of the Cold War. A career soldier, Eisenhower championed peace, freedom, justice and security, and as President he stressed the interdependence of those goals. He spent a lifetime fulfilling his duty to his country, always remembering to ask what's best for America.

The development of the Pre-Design Program will produce three books to serve as an information packet for potential designers and the eventual design team for the memorial. The reasons for building a memorial to Eisenhower are only one part of the challenge set out in the Pre-Design Program. Technical considerations and guidance from the National Park Service are also included. Issues from preserving the historic view to the U.S. Capitol to providing a National Park Service Ranger station at the site are presented. This stage is the last major step prior to procuring a design team.

While the Eisenhower Memorial Commission has so far been able to efficiently manage the memorialization process, the tasks involved in design and construction require revised administrative and operational authority. H.R. 2094 provides the needed revisions and will enable the Commission to work more efficiently and effectively during design and construction when quick turnaround times are vital and daily decisions must be made. The authority provided in this legislation is based on the authority given to temporary commissions in existence for up to three years. The Eisenhower Memorial Commission has similar needs, but exists for no set time period. The Commission will exist until the completion of the memorial.

For example, H.R. 2094 will enable the Commission to hire temporary federal employees instead of contract consultants, simplifying administration of staffing and covering the liability of its employees. H.R. 2094 will also provide for the Executive Architect to represent the Commission on the panels that will select the design team for the memorial. As currently written, the Commission's legislation prohibits its staff or members from participating in the determination of the design team.

H.R. 2094 will enable the Commission to continue working not only to ensure that the National Eisenhower Memorial is an inspiration to future generations, but also to ensure that the memorialization process is an example of responsible public work. I urge my colleagues to support passage of S. 2739 today, and with it, the language included in H.R. 2094.

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of S. 2739, the Consolidated Natural

Resources Act of 2008. This bipartisan legislation consists of 61 measures that previously passed the House earlier in the 110th Congress. Among the bill's provisions is Section 201, which incorporates H.R. 276, the Piedras Blancas Historic Light Station Outstanding Natural Area Act of 2007, a bill I sponsored and was approved by the House on March 5, 2007, by voice vote.

First, I want to thank the chairman of the Natural Resources Committee, Mr. RAHALL, and chairman of the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands, Mr. GRIJALVA, as well as the ranking members of the full Committee and Subcommittee for expediting the consideration of this legislation and for bringing S. 2739 before us today. I also want to thank Senator BINGAMAN, the chairman of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, as well as Senator FEINSTEIN and Senator BOXER for their support of the Consolidated Natural Resources Act.

Section 201 of S. 2739 would designate the Piedras Blancas Historic Light Station—located in my congressional district—as an Outstanding Natural Area within the BLM's National Landscape Conservation System.

The Piedras Blancas Light Station is located on an 18-acre parcel of BLM-administered land along the Pacific Coast in San Luis Obispo County. The property is adjacent to Pacific Coast Highway and the Hearst Castle State Historic Monument, and it looks over a pristine coastal area that includes the southern portion of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary and California Coastal National Monument. It is also nationally recognized as an important monitoring point for migrating whales, and is used by the U.S. Geological Survey, the National Marine Fisheries Service and a number of universities and colleges for marine wildlife and plant research.

The Light Station and the surrounding area are also important for tourism. For example, the national historic Light House—built in 1879—is a main destination focal point on the Central Coast, and the peninsula is very popular for viewing sea otters, elephant seals, and sea lions from shore. The elephant seal colony at Piedras Blancas attracts an estimated 400,000 visitors annually.

In 2001, BLM assumed ownership and management of the Light Station from the U.S. Coast Guard. Since then, BLM, State and local agencies, community stakeholders and conservation groups have developed a very successful partnership to preserve the Light Station.

Some of these partners include: the Piedras Blancas Light Station Association; California State Parks; San Luis Obispo County; the cities of Cambria and San Simeon; the California Coastal Conservancy and Coastal Commission; NOAA; and the Hearst Corporation.

As a result of their hard work, the site was re-opened to public tours in 2003—for the first time in 128 years! These partners continue to work together on a series of environmental education, historical restoration and resource protection programs. And I'm confident they will each support and showcase this national designation if enacted.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to acknowledge the second and third-graders at Grover Heights Elementary school in my congressional district for their support of this Light Station. In 2006, these students began the "Pennies for Piedras" campaign to raise money toward restoration of the lighthouse. By the end

of the school year, the students had raised \$1337.30 in pennies to repair Piedras Blancas. I'm happy to report the students at Grover Heights continue this wonderful effort to protect and enhance one of the Central Coast's crown jewels.

As you know, my legislation tracks the successful model of designating the Oregon Coast's Yaquina Head as an Outstanding Natural Area, which was signed into law in 1980. Yaquina Head was later included in the National Landscape Conservation System.

Like Yaquina Head, the addition of the Piedras Blancas Light Station to the NLCS would be an important step in protecting and preserving this valuable natural and historic resource. It will also focus attention on the restoration of the Light Station and surrounding area, specifically the three on-site National Register properties. And, it will serve as a means to increase public awareness of the Light Station's scientific, cultural and educational values.

Specifically, Section 201 stresses long-term conservation of the Light Station by requiring timely completion of a management plan. The management plan would be developed through a public process and include guidelines for restoration of the National Register of Historic Places buildings, including the Light House; public access; ecological and cultural resource management; and, fostering scientific study and research opportunities.

Mr. Speaker, the Piedras Blancas Light Station is a wonderful resource. It has the potential to serve as a model for future resource management, and therefore would be an appropriate addition to the BLM's National Landscape Conservation System.

Again, I would like to thank the Committee on Natural Resources for supporting this bill, which among other things, will designate the Piedras Blancas Historic Light Station as an Outstanding Natural Area, and urge its immediate passage.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker. I want to thank Chairman RAHALL and my colleagues in the Senate for all of their hard work on this bill. It is my pleasure today to speak on behalf of S. 2739.

I rise to highlight Title IV of this comprehensive natural resources bill, which reauthorizes the National Heritage Area program. Heritage Areas allow communities to preserve and maintain places of cultural and historical importance so that future generations can enjoy them. These areas also provide important recreational opportunities for local families and visitors who come from all over the country. They relieve the Federal Government of the burden of permanently maintaining these spaces as national parks at a time when the National Park System is overburdened.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is a tremendous benefit to the American people. National Heritage Areas provide opportunities for the health, education, and recreation of the American people in their communities. In my State of Ohio, the Ohio and Erie Canalway is one of the many great examples of the success of this program. The Ohio and Erie Canal was originally created nearly two centuries ago in an attempt to bring Ohio out of economic stagnation by making the State a vital link in the waterways that connect the Eastern States with the Gulf of Mexico. As a result, Ohio excelled to become one of the most prosperous States within 20 years of the canal's creation.

Today, that heritage is shared with the people as they enjoy the many of the benefits Ohio and Erie Canal Towpath. With over 3 million users a year, this one of several National Heritage Areas clearly highlights the success of this program.

I also want to emphasize the fiscal responsibility of the heritage area provisions. This bill will not provide money to managing entities unless they provide matching funds from other sources. For example, within the Ohio and Erie Canalway, for the \$8 million in Federal funding that has been secured for this area, over \$270 million in State, local, and private contributions have been leveraged.

Mr. Speaker, the National Heritage Area program has been a successful program for nearly 10 years. I believe it will continue to be a successful program as it has been an efficient use of the taxpayers' money while preserving historic and cultural landmarks for communities across this country. I ask my colleagues to support S. 2739.

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 2739, the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008, which includes a provision to establish a commission that will report to Congress on the feasibility of creating a National Museum of the American Latino.

Recently, the Senate passed this legislation. The House of Representatives already voted unanimously for the National Museum of the American Latino provision in the form of H.R. 512 on February 4, 2007. And today, we get the chance to do it once again.

The passage of S. 2739 will ensure that a full, rich, and inclusive story of American Latinos will be told in our nation's capital soon. Tomorrow, as many families and educators celebrate El Día de los Niños, a day on which families and educators celebrate our children, it is important to consider a valuable learning tool that until now has been somewhat neglected. Our national museums influence what Americans and foreign visitors know and believe about this nation's collective history and cultural life. My largest disappointment is that the official narrative portrayed in our museums still fails to recognize and exhibit the significant contributions made by Latinos to the culture and history of the United States.

This National Museum of the American Latino Commission Act included in S. 2739 creates a bipartisan Commission tasked with looking at whether our national museums are doing all they can to provide future generations a more complete portrayal of American Latino contributions to American life. The 23-member Commission of experts would examine whether and how to establish a new museum dedicated to the art, history, and culture of the American Latino population of the United States. Within two years of the bill being signed into law, the Commission will report their findings and recommendations to Congress, detailing a recommended plan of action on how to move forward with taking the museum from concept to reality.

In passing this legislation, we are laying the first cobblestones in what many hope will ultimately create a National Museum of the American Latino. Though American Latinos' contributions span centuries and economic sectors, many people are unaware of the role Americans of Latino descent played, and continue to play, in America. This legislation offers an extraordinary opportunity to better understand the historical and significant contributions that make this country great.

It is my hope that children who visit Washington, DC's museums go home with a more complete understanding of what it means to be an American. We hope one day our children can learn from our national museums that:

Latinos' contributions to the United States of America date back to 1565, when the Spanish established the first permanent settlement in the territorial United States in St. Augustine, Florida—four decades before the establishment of Jamestown and Plymouth Rock.

From General Bernard de Galvez who supported General George Washington's rebellion against England to the 500,000 Hispanics who served in the Armed Forces during World War II to the soldiers like Jose Antonio Gutierrez who was among the first casualties of American troops in Iraq, Latinos have played a pivotal role in every major U.S. military war.

The sacrifices and honor of our Latino service members represent a proportionately larger number of our Nation's Congressional Medal of Honor awardees than any other ethnic group.

Latino astronauts, such as astronauts Dr. Franklin Chang-Díaz, Sydney Gutiérrez, and Dr. Ellen Ochoa, have soared into space.

During Hispanic Heritage Month in October, 2003, I first sponsored this important legislation with my good friend, Representative ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN. I thank her and my Senate colleagues, Senators KEN SALAZAR, BOB MENENDEZ, and MEL MARTINEZ for their work as lead champions of the National American Latino Heritage Museum Commission Act in the Senate. To Senator JEFF BINGAMAN and Majority Leader HARRY REID, I send my appreciation for their help both in including H.R. 512 as part of the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008 and in ensuring the bill's safe Senate passage.

Mr. Speaker, we are moving closer to the day when we can confidently say that the mosaic portrayed in Washington, DC's museums truly reflects America. I thank you for allowing the consideration of S. 2739, which includes the National Museum of the American Latino Commission Act to have its time on the House floor. I strongly encourage my colleagues to vote in support of S. 2739, so that we can clear this final congressional hurdle and move forward a broadly supported effort to ensure that American Latinos are included in our national narrative.

Mr. RAHALL. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 2739.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

FINANCIAL LITERACY MONTH 2008

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the

resolution (H. Res. 1079) supporting the goals and ideals of Financial Literacy Month 2008, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1079

Whereas personal financial literacy is essential to ensure that individuals are prepared to make informed financial choices, as well as manage money, credit, debt, and risk and become responsible workers, heads of households, investors, entrepreneurs, business leaders, and citizens;

Whereas personal financial management skills and lifelong habits begin to develop during childhood;

Whereas a study completed in 2006 by the Jump\$tart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy found that high school seniors know less about principles of basic personal finance than did high school seniors 7 years earlier, and the average scores in both years were failing grades;

Whereas the 2007 Survey of the States by the National Council on Economic Education found that 49 States include the subject of economics and 40 States include the subject of personal finance in their elementary and secondary education standards, up from 48 and 31 States, respectively, in 2002;

Whereas 55 percent of college students acquire their first credit card during their first year in college, and 92 percent of college students acquire at least 1 credit card by their second year in college, yet only 26 percent of people between the ages of 13 and 21 reported that their parents actively taught them how to manage money;

Whereas the personal savings rate in the United States was zero percent at the end of the fourth quarter of 2007, which puts it among the lowest since the government began collecting the data in 1959;

Whereas although more than 42,000,000 people in the United States participate in qualified cash or deferred arrangements described in section 401(k) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (commonly referred to as "401(k) plans"), a Retirement Confidence Survey conducted in 2004 found that only 42 percent of workers surveyed have calculated how much money they will need to save for retirement and 37 percent of workers say that they are not currently saving for retirement;

Whereas the average baby boomer has only \$50,000 in savings apart from equity in their homes;

Whereas a study by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants found that 55 percent of people between the ages of 25 and 34 maintain an interest-bearing account or other savings instrument, a decrease of 10 percent since 1985;

Whereas the April 2007 National Foundation for Credit Counseling consumer financial literacy survey found that only 39 percent of American consumers keep close track of their expenses; less than half have ordered their credit report; and one-third do not know where to go for financial advice;

Whereas studies show that as many as 10,000,000 households in the United States are "unbanked" or are without access to mainstream financial products and services;

Whereas expanding access to the mainstream financial system provides individuals with lower-cost and safer options for managing finances and building wealth and is likely to lead to increased economic activity and growth;

Whereas public, community-based, and private sector organizations throughout the United States are working to increase financial literacy rates for Americans of all ages

and walks of life through a range of outreach efforts, including media campaigns, websites, and one-on-one counseling for individuals;

Whereas at least 6,500 bankers will teach savings skills to young people on April 29, 2008, during Teach Children to Save Day, which was started by the American Bankers Association Education Foundation in April of 1997 and has helped more than 45,000 bankers teach savings skills to nearly 2,300,000 young people;

Whereas staff from America's credit unions will make presentations to young people at local schools on financial topics such as student loans, balancing a checkbook, and auto loans during National Credit Union Youth Week, which will be held April 20–26, 2008;

Whereas Members of the United States House of Representatives established the Financial and Economic Literacy Caucus (FELC) in February 2005 to (1) provide a forum for interested Members of Congress to review, discuss and recommend financial and economic literacy policies, legislation, and programs, (2) collaborate with the private sector, and nonprofit and community-based organizations, and (3) organize and promote financial literacy legislation, seminars, and events, such as "Financial Literacy Month" in April, 2008, and the annual "Financial Literacy Day" fair on April 28, 2008; and

Whereas the National Council on Economic Education, its State Councils and Centers for Economic Education, the Jump\$tart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy, its State affiliates, and its partner organizations, and JA Worldwide have designated April as Financial Literacy Month to educate the public about the need for increased financial literacy for youth and adults in the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of Financial Literacy Month, including raising public awareness about financial education;

(2) recognizes the importance of managing personal finances, increasing personal savings and reducing indebtedness in the United States; and

(3) requests that the President issue a proclamation calling on the Federal Government, States, localities, schools, nonprofit organizations, businesses, other entities, and the people of the United States to observe the month with appropriate programs and activities with the goal of increasing financial literacy rates for individuals of all ages and walks of life.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this legislation and to insert extraneous material thereon.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, personal financial management skills and lifelong habits begin to develop during childhood. It is essential that we begin preparing our

youth as early as possible to make informed financial choices, as well as manage money, credit, debt, and risk, and become responsible workers, heads of household, investors, entrepreneurs, business leaders, and citizens.

We need to begin working closely with the Department of Education in States and localities to ensure that we begin the financial literacy learning process at least by the time a child enters kindergarten, and we need to work with the States to encourage them to require some form of financial literacy as a required part of the education curriculum.

Policymakers of both parties at the local, State, and Federal levels recently have increased their focus on financial literacy and economic education issues because national surveys from such groups as Jump\$tart, the National Council on Economic Education, and the National Federation for Credit Counseling reveal troubling gaps in students' and the public's knowledge of these subjects.

Economic competency and financial literacy skills are critical for individuals to make sound decisions regarding home ownership, in savings, investment, credit and borrowing, as well as retirement planning. An educated and literate populace will strengthen the national economy as individuals improve their own economic well-being.

Mr. Speaker, our government should lead by example. We should coordinate and communicate a unified message on financial literacy across this Nation. We should authorize and appropriate such funds as necessary to create a broad-based public awareness campaign comprised of a substantial mass market, multimedia effort in support of a national financial literacy initiative on the scale of the "Truth" campaign developed through the Public Education Fund to discourage smoking among young people.

Furthermore, I believe that the National Endowment on Financial Education and several other financial literacy nonprofits and community-based groups would agree with me. In 2004, Congress passed a bill known as the FACT Act. One of the provisions in that act required Treasury and a Financial Literacy Commission to create such a campaign. It is now 2008, and Treasury has failed. So now it's our turn to take back control of the situation.

We can introduce legislation authorizing funds for such a national multimedia financial literacy campaign. The National Endowment on Financial Education recently completed one that was a success. I hope that all of my colleagues will support such legislation once it has been introduced.

Mr. Speaker, some disturbing facts. The personal savings rate in the United States was a negative 1 percent at the end of 2006, and it was zero percent at the end of the fourth quarter of 2007, which puts it among the lowest level since the government began collecting

the savings rate data in 1959. Although more than 42 million people living in the U.S. participate in 401(k) plans, a Retirement Confidence Survey conducted in 2004 found that only 42 percent of workers surveyed have calculated how much money they will need to save for retirement, and only 37 percent of workers say that they are not currently saving for retirement.

Even more disturbing is the fact that the average baby boomer has only \$50,000 in savings, apart from equity in their home, and the first wave of baby boomers have already entered their retirement years. This is unbelievable and dangerous to our economy and our way of life.

Something I want to discuss at length, Mr. Speaker, is the plight of what are known as the "unbanked." As many as 10 million households in the United States are unbanked, without access to mainstream financial products and services. This is a very common occurrence in my congressional district. People tend to operate in a cash society along the Texas Mexico border. If these individuals were to buy their goods and services by drawing down funds from a checking or a savings account, they would eventually be incorporated into the entire mainstream financial system. By doing so, they would establish credit. Lenders would have access to their credit reports and scores, and this would hopefully result in these previously unbanked persons attaining the American Dream of homeownership.

Unfortunately, even when these formally unbanked individuals finally have the ways and means to purchase a home, they quickly discover that they have to protect themselves from predatory lenders. I believe that the legislation that Chairman FRANK and the Committee on Financial Services is crafting will help low-income individuals who have been duped by unscrupulous salespersons, which has resulted in the current economic crisis. Chairman FRANK definitely has his finger on the pulse of this problem, and he will make sure the train stays on the track.

I salute Congresswoman BIGGERT for her work on this issue. Six years ago, to address all of these financial literacy problems, my colleague and good friend and staunch supporter of financial literacy, Congresswoman JUDY BIGGERT, and I cofounded and currently cochair the Congressional Financial and Economic Literacy Caucus. The caucus seeks to address these issues head-on by increasing public awareness of poor financial literacy rates and working to find the ways and means to improve them.

The caucus has helped promote policies that advance financial literacy and economic education. Together, we have done so by connecting Members of Congress with Federal agencies that can help them teach financial literacy at town hall meetings, through financial literacy e-newsletters, financial literacy fairs, financial football, the

stock market game, and many more activities.

Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to commend my colleagues and friends, Congresswoman EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON and Congressman DON PAYNE, for all that they are doing to improve financial literacy. With a solid background knowledge of financial literacy, America's youth can become responsible employees, heads of household, investors, entrepreneurs, and business leaders.

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Parents and teachers need to teach our youth to start saving young, stay insured, budget their money, not borrow what they cannot repay, and especially avoid excessive credit card debt and the credit card sharks that prey on students on every college campus across the United States.

Before I close, Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to thank Congresswoman BIGGERT for working with me over the years on financial literacy. It is a pleasure to work with you and to be able to accomplish so much in just a few years.

I also want to commend her staff, Nicole Austin and Zach Cikanek, for their dedication to the financial literacy cause. I want to also express my sincere appreciation for the assistance Denise Wilson of our Committee on Government Reform provided my staff. I applaud the staff from America's credit unions, who made presentations to young people at local schools on financial topics such as student loans, balancing a checkbook and auto loans during National Credit Union Youth Week, which was held the week of April 20 of this year.

I also want to commend the American Bankers Association Education Foundation for holding their annual Teach Children to Save Day. Today, April 29, just happens to be Teach Children to Save Day. It is my understanding that over 12,000 bankers from 1,100 bank branches signed up to host financial literacy events today. Furthermore, I understand that tomorrow is El Día de los Niños, and they too will be exposed to financial literacy education in English and in Spanish. Many American children will share financial literacy lessons with approximately 435,000 students, which is quite an endeavor, but one which they can accomplish under the direction of Kathryn Kelly.

I include the following extraneous material for the RECORD:

NFCC AND MSN MONEY RELEASE CONSUMER SURVEY RESULTS ON CAPITOL HILL—2008 SURVEY REVEALS SERIOUS GAPS IN FINANCIAL LITERACY

SILVER SPRING, MD.—The National Foundation for Credit Counseling (NFCC) and MSN Money today released the results of their 2008 Consumer Financial Literacy Survey during a Congressional Briefing on Capitol Hill. The purpose of the survey, conducted by Princeton Survey Research Associates International, is to identify what Americans know about their finances and to

assess their overall financial health. Having identified the key areas of deficiency, the NFCC and MSN Money plan to target their financial education initiatives to those Americans most at-risk.

While some results were positive, others revealed an undeniable need for financial education. Key findings were as follows:

Significant number struggle with mortgage payments and complexity of buying a home. One in every 10 Americans with a mortgage, or roughly 10 million adults, report being late or missing a mortgage payment in the last year. Adding more stress to the current housing market, almost one-quarter of Americans say they do not know enough about owning a home to consider buying one.

Millions have serious difficulties paying bills each month, most notably Generation Y. While a majority of the public reports that they pay their bills on time and do not have any debts in collections, a notable minority has fallen behind and is struggling, with seven percent, or roughly 15 million adults, either getting calls from collectors or seriously considering filing for bankruptcy. Higher income households and older Americans are more likely to stay on top of their bills. Whites and Latinos are more likely to pay their bills on time and stay clear of collections than blacks. Alarmingly, only 59 percent or roughly 23 million of the young adults in Generation Y, those ages 18-29, pay their bills on time every month. That translates into millions of tomorrow's leaders, those who will drive the engine of our economy for years to come, who are not practicing a most basic financial principle. The previous generation of consumers, those ages 30-49, also do not appear to be modeling good financial behavior.

Only a minority keep close track of expenses/spending. Financial experts generally agree that having a household budget is sound financial management. However, similar to the findings from 2007, only a minority of Americans say they keep close track of what they their typical monthly expenses are. Although a majority of the public has at least a somewhat good idea of where their money goes each month, nearly two in 10, or roughly 40 million adults, keep little or no track at all. Contrary to some stereotypes, how closely Americans manage their money does not vary by gender, age, or income. Women continue to be as likely as men, younger people as likely as older people, and lower income households as likely as higher income ones to keep close track of what they spend.

Savings and emergency funds lacking. A majority of the public does not have a sufficient emergency fund, defined as three to six months income saved. More than one-third, or roughly 76 million adults, say they do not have any non-retirement savings. Although a majority is currently saving for their retirement, more than one-quarter are not.

Many Americans are under-insured, Latinos at higher risk. Even though the baby boomer generation has come of age, only a little more than one-quarter say they have long-term care insurance. Another at-risk group is renters, with only one in 10 saying they have renters insurance. Latinos are also less likely to have medical and life insurance than whites or blacks.

Minority has ordered credit report. Financial experts recommend that consumers check their credit history at least once a year. Yet, only a minority of Americans has ordered their credit report in the past year, in spite of the fact that it can be acquired for free. And one-third, or roughly 72 million adults, readily admit that they do not know their all-important credit score.

Parents and home the biggest influence on financial education. A plurality of the public

says they have learned the most about personal finance from their parents or at home. Almost half of those who closely monitor their finances are more likely to say that they learned about personal finance from their parents or at home, underscoring the potential positive influence parents can have on their children financially. To a lesser extent, some say they learned the most about personal finance on their own, followed by a financial professional, self-help sources, school, work, friends, and their spouse or partner.

Americans worry about future income growth; Midwest has greatest concerns. And matters are not likely to improve, according to some Americans. Only one-quarter expect their income to outpace inflation. More than half of all Americans believe their income will shrink, not keep pace with inflation, or stay even; this worry is greatest among Americans in the Midwest at nearly 70 percent.

"If there were ever a time that Americans needed to embrace financial literacy, it is now," said Susan C. Keating, president and CEO of the NFCC. "The NFCC is proud to make public the results of this survey in hopes that it will be a wake-up call to consumers. We live in a credit-dominated society and it is important that consumers avail themselves to the many opportunities to sharpen their financial skills and avoid any traps along the path to financial stability."

"The findings of this study are staggering, especially given the current economic outlook. We conducted this study to get at the core of what financial issues plague Americans and with this information we are now better equipped to help consumers where they need it most," said Richard Jenkins, editor-in-chief of MSN Money. "The good news is that there's an array of tools, expert advice and other resources available to better equip Americans with the information they need to stay on top of their finances. As a first step, I encourage consumers to check out the NFCC and MSN Money Web sites for tips and guidance on how to get their finances on track and stay ahead during these tough financial times."

Survey Methodology. Princeton Survey Research Associates International conducted telephone interviews between March 5th and March 15th, 2008 from a representative sampling of 1,001 Americans nationwide. The margin of error for questions based on the total sample is +/- 3 percentage points.

Washington, DC, April 8, 2008.

Hon. RUBÉN HINOJOSA,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

Hon. JUDY BIGGERT,
House of Representatives
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVES HINOJOSA AND BIGGERT:

I am writing on behalf of the Credit Union National Association (CUNA), to express our support for H. Res. 1079, which supports the goals and ideals of Financial Literacy Month 2008. CUNA is the nation's largest credit union advocacy organization, representing 90% of our nation's approximately 8,800 state and federal credit unions, their state credit union leagues, and their 88 million members.

Given the uncertainty in today's financial markets, the subprime lending crisis and other economic factors, financial literacy is more important than ever for all Americans. A knowledge of personal financial management, including savings, investment and debt, is essential to ensuring that individuals are empowered to make informed decisions about their finances. The financial literacy is vital to the well-being of American families and the overall economic health and prosperity of our nation.

Credit unions are particularly aware of the importance of providing a financial education to young people. During Financial Literacy Month, credit unions will demonstrate our commitment to educating youth as we hold National Credit Union Youth Week from April 20-26, 2008. Through the week's National Youth Savings Challenge, participating credit unions will motivate children, teenagers, and their parents to become more active users of credit union services. Each year of the challenge has seen a steady increase in participation and savings. In 2007, 393 credit unions participated in the challenge and 71,844 youth—an increase of 9,067 youth accounts—made \$10.1 million in saving deposits.

In keeping with our commitment, credit unions manage many other financial youth literacy programs throughout the year. Credit unions have directly assisted in delivering the National Endowment for Financial Education's (NEFE) High School Financial Planning Program materials to more than 1,200 schools and 500,000 students nationwide from 2000 to 2007. Of the 6 million student guides which have been distributed since its publication, 4 million were distributed since CUNA's partnership with the program in 2000.

In addition, credit unions have helped fund the BizKid\$ Television Series—a 26-episode series that promotes financial education for middle and high school students and reaches nearly 90 million American households—which was a joint project of the Washington Credit Union Foundation, the Public Broadcasting Service, and Junior Achievement Worldwide. Credit unions across the country also reach out to students on a personal level by visiting local schools to speak about such topics as student loans and hosting personal finance camps for teenagers.

CUNA believes in the importance of financial literacy for all Americans and thanks you for your leadership in introducing H. Res. 1079. We strongly urge its adoption in the House of Representatives.

Sincerely,

DANIEL A. MICA,
President & CEO.

ICBA APPLAUDS REPS. HINOJOSA AND BIGGERT
FOR RESOLUTION ON FINANCIAL LITERACY
MONTH

WASHINGTON, D.C. (April 15, 2008).—The Independent Community Bankers of America (ICBA) strongly supports the bi-partisan congressional resolution Recognizing the Goals and Ideals of Financial Literacy Month (H. Res. 1079) designating April as "Financial Literacy Month," which calls on government, non-profit organizations and the private sector to raise public awareness about the importance of financial education in the United States and the serious consequences that can result from a lack of understanding about personal finances.

"Managing money wisely is critical to success in life," said Cynthia L. Blankenship, ICBA chairman and vice chairman and chief operating officer of Bank of the West, Irving, Texas. "Too many Americans lack the skill and knowledge to make appropriate financial decisions. The more consumers and young adults know, the better they are at managing their finances, and the better they manage their finances, the more likely they are to enjoy a secure financial future."

"We commend Reps. Rubén Hinojosa (D-Tex.) and Judy Biggert (R-Ill.) for introducing a resolution that supports the goals and ideals of Financial Literacy Month," said Blankenship. "Financial education is important for today's consumers so that they can understand and make good decisions when faced with the complex array of financial products and services available."

ICBA encourages its nearly 5,000 member community banks to support the goals of Financial Literacy Month by promoting financial literacy programs during ICBA Community Banking Month in April, as well as throughout the year. ICBA has an on-going commitment to improving financial literacy by forging government, non-profit and private-sector partnerships, such as the JumpStart Coalition and America Saves.

ICBA recognizes community banks for their outstanding financial literacy efforts within their community through the National Community Bank Service Award Financial Literacy Award. For 2007, two community banks received recognition:

Howard Bank, Ellicott City, Md., was honored for its financial literacy program by donating more than \$70,000 and volunteering countless hours to local schools, community groups and non-profit associations needing help with financial literacy.

1st Centennial Bank, Redlands, Calif., was honored for developing curriculum that teaches the basics of money management such as saving, budgeting, spending and using credit wisely. 1st Centennial offers the program and provides all materials for free.

Some of the results of the National Federation for Credit Counseling's survey were positive, but others revealed an undeniable need for financial education. These results are consistent with the findings of JumpStart's 2008 financial literacy survey, the National Council on Economic Education's 2007 Survey of the States, the 2007 Ariel-Schwab Black Investor Survey, the Employer Benefit Retirement Institute's recent Retirement Confidence Survey, and the National Council of La Raza's "Financial Counseling: A Meaningful Strategy for Building Wealth in the Latino Community."

In closing, Mr. Speaker, our country is suffering financially and our constituents are not armed with the tools they need to provide for a good future. Whether you are 5 or 65, it is never too early nor too late to take control of your finances. So why not start now?

For these reasons and more, I encourage my colleagues to support this resolution, H. Res. 1079.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 1079, which recognizes April as National Financial Literacy Month. I am pleased to say that this will be the fifth year in a row that Congress has designated April as Financial Literacy Month, and I would like to thank my good friend and fellow Chair of the House Financial and Economic Literacy Caucus, Mr. HINOJOSA, for introducing this resolution and for his continuing efforts to improve financial literacy rates in America.

Our caucus, which boasts about 80 members from both sides of the aisle, has been on the front line of this issue for several years, and I think it is fair to say that we have made some genuine progress. Today, 40 States include personal finance in their educational standards. That is up from 31 in 2002. Even more promising, 49 States now include some aspect of economics in the

curriculum guidelines. But we have much work ahead of us if we are going to help today's children become tomorrow's smart investors, entrepreneurs and business leaders.

The savings rate is still hovering just below zero; 10 million Americans are unbanked; there were 2.2 million foreclosures in 2007; and the front pages of our newspapers across the country proclaim that millions of Americans are losing their homes because they were not ready to be homeowners.

Clearly, the need to improve financial literacy of Americans is greater than ever. And this applies to all Americans, not just students and children. From college grads to senior citizens, consumers are being asked to make decisions about increasingly complex financial products. According to the FTC, one-third of borrowers could not even identify the interest rate in a mortgage disclosure form and half could not correctly identify the loan amount. The problem is amplified by complicated legal jargon about balloon payments, rate resets, escrow accounts, prepayments and closing costs. The list goes on and on. That is why I have introduced several bills to help owners find a loan that best meets their budget and needs, steering them away from a situation that could lead to foreclosure down the road.

Just last week, I joined Financial Services Ranking Member BACHUS and Housing and Community Development Subcommittee Ranking Member SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO to introduce legislation that would simplify mortgage documents and increase resources for housing counseling. Taken together, these reforms will not only prevent foreclosures, they will help owners to avoid fraud and allow them to easily compare financial products to find the best loan for their families' needs.

Mr. Speaker, efforts to stimulate the economy cannot succeed unless we equip Americans with the knowledge and resources they need to succeed in today's sophisticated economic market. Housing is just one of these areas where improved financial literacy will benefit consumers.

Americans also need access to the proper tools for saving and investing money. At the start of the 110th Congress, I introduced a bill called the 401 Kids Family Savings Act of 2007. This bill will allow parents and family members to set aside money in a child's account that will accumulate tax-free and can be used for college tuition, a first home, or even retirement, should the money last that long. Not only will this boost savings, it will get kids actively engaged in banking from the time they are old enough to count. This way, they can learn about things like compound interest in the best way imaginable, by watching their own college fund grow.

Mr. Speaker, there are so many great ideas for improving financial literacy rates. In fact, over 50 nonprofit community and private sector organiza-

tions from across the country came to the Hill yesterday for the annual Financial Literacy Day Fair. On display for policymakers were hundreds of books, programs and resources on how to improve financial literacy in ways that will make a positive impact on people's lives. It was a remarkable success, and I would like to congratulate the National Council on Economic Education, the JumpStart Coalition, Junior Achievement, and all the other sponsors who worked with Senators AKAKA and ENZI to put it together.

I would also like to recognize the impressive efforts of Charles Schwab, John Hope Bryant and the other members of the President's new Private Sector Advisory Council on Financial Literacy. It is increasingly clear that teaching financial literacy requires cooperation between the government and industry. This council will help to facilitate that cooperation by making and implementing recommendations for improving on current financial literacy outreach efforts.

Mr. Speaker, Americans are a diverse group, but we all share some very basic financial needs. We need to be prepared for tuition costs, a home, health care and retirement. We need a financial cushion against unexpected challenges like the death of a family member. And we need the capital necessary for new entrepreneurs to launch the start-ups and open the small businesses that drive the economy. Every American should have the opportunity and know-how to fulfill each of these goals. That is why I urge my colleagues to support this resolution and show that financial literacy remains a top priority for Congress.

I would like to once again thank Representative HINOJOSA and his staff, especially Greg Davis, for all their hard work on this resolution. I would also like to thank the chairman and ranking member of the Financial Services Committee, Mr. FRANK and Mr. BACHUS, for helping to move this resolution through our committee in a bipartisan way.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support this resolution and urge my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to be able to recognize and yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY).

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. I thank the gentleman for yielding and congratulate him on this resolution and all of his hard work.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution, and I want to thank Chairman HINOJOSA and Congresswoman BIGGERT for their leadership in this area as co-chairs of the bipartisan Financial and Economic Literacy Caucus.

As this resolution states, we need to work to encourage government and private sector initiatives to enhance financial literacy. Given the current turmoil in the financial markets, the

housing crisis, increasing credit card indebtedness and the economic downturn, it is very important that all Americans become better educated and more responsible financial consumers.

Financial literacy is important for many reasons, not the least of which is to learn how to save. As some point out, we have lost that ability. The Department of Commerce reports that personal saving as a percentage of disposable income, already low, declined to zero in the fourth quarter of 2007, and with the economic downturn, the situation will likely get worse. We need to help individuals develop personal savings skills, and this resolution will encourage them to do so.

The deregulation of financial markets and the rapid increase in the number and complexity of financial products stump even the most financially savvy. We know that financial literacy is especially low for certain groups, such as those with lower educational attainment and low income. If you don't understand how finance charges on mortgages, credit cards or car loans work, you can't make decisions that help you, and these decisions could push you further into debt without you realizing it.

The efforts of our school system are uneven, and we need to encourage them. In its 2007 Survey of the States, the National Council of Economic Education found that only 41 States require economic standards to be implemented in the high school curriculum, only 17 States actually require an economics course for graduation, only 22 States actually test students' knowledge of economics, only seven States require that students take a personal finance course for graduation, and only nine States actually test students' knowledge of personal finance.

Just last month, the JumpStart Coalition released its annual study, which found that the 2008 high school senior class knows less about principles of basic personal finance than their 2006 counterparts. This does not bode well for their ability to manage their finances as a result.

This resolution shows our commitment to improving financial literacy through both public and private sector efforts. I urge my colleagues to support it. I congratulate the authors, and I congratulate the chairman and the ranking member for their efforts in moving it through the committee.

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS), an important member of the Financial Services Committee.

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the goals and ideals of Financial Literacy Month and the commitment in Congress to raise public awareness about the importance of financial education.

As we near the end of April, which is Financial Literacy Month, credit card debt is on the rise, borrowers are defaulting on mortgage payments, oil

prices are hitting historic highs, unemployment is increasing and consumers continue to bite off more debt than they can handle. Financially illiterate consumers cannot be expected to make sound financial decisions because they simply are not equipped with the tools and knowledge they need.

□ 1530

It seems to me we can't expect people to be thoughtful consumers when they are not afforded the knowledge they need to make wise choices about their finances.

In light of recent turmoil in the subprime mortgage and credit markets, financial education is now more important than ever. Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke drew attention to this point when he said, "The crisis in the U.S. subprime mortgage market underscored the need for Americans to develop a sound base of financial knowledge."

I believe it is important to ensure Americans have access to the knowledge and expertise they need to be savvy consumers and wise investors. It is never too early to learn about the importance of good credit and savings.

Parents and schools play an important role in educating tomorrow's consumers, which is why I am supportive of initiatives like JumpStart that bring financial education into our Nation's classrooms. JumpStart is a national coalition of organizations dedicated to improving the financial literacy of kindergarten through college-aged youth by providing educational resources and advocating for increased personal finance education. A 2008 survey of high school seniors conducted by the alliance revealed that graduating seniors continue to struggle with basic financial concepts.

First convened in December 1995, the JumpStart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy determined that the average high school graduate lacks basic personal financial management skills like even balancing a checkbook. Laying the groundwork for financial independence at a young age will create a generation of individually prosperous and fiscally responsible consumers, and a corresponding stronger and better Nation.

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following extraneous material for the RECORD:

FINANCIAL COUNSELING: A MEANINGFUL STRATEGY FOR BUILDING WEALTH IN THE LATINO COMMUNITY

(By Beatriz Ibarra, National Council of La Raza)

SUMMARY

The report shows that current policies to improve financial literacy for Latinos fail to include one-on-one financial counseling programs, the linchpin of any strategy to close the wealth gap for Hispanics. Financial Counseling: A Meaningful Strategy for Building Wealth in the Latino Community provides specific policy recommendations on how to increase programs proven to improve financial decision-making of Hispanics—especially the more than 14.5 million who lack a basic checking account.

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support H. Res. 1079, a resolution supporting the goals and ideals of Financial Literacy Month and thank my friend and colleague Mr. HINOJOSA for offering it. I also want to thank Mr. HINOJOSA for his leadership of the Financial and Economic Literacy Caucus (FELC), of which I am a proud member.

This year, the theme for my annual women's conference was "Financial Literacy for Women," to recognize the importance of educating and encouraging women to take steps that could result in a better financial future for themselves and their families. At this conference, I invited speakers to motivate the women in my district to think about their finances and plan for the future.

That's what this resolution is all about, ensuring that individuals from all walks of life—women, men, young and old—recognize the importance of managing personal finances, increase personal savings and reduce their debt. In these tough economic times it is important that we all prepare for our financial future.

The past few months we have seen rising prices for gas to food, more Americans losing their homes or the value in their homes, and rising unemployment. Earlier this year, the New Direction Congress passed an economic stimulus package to help families with high costs of gas, health care and groceries, and to jumpstart our slowing economy. Recovery Rebates will be in the hands of 130 million Americans, starting early in May.

The strain of the economic downturn on middle-class families demands a second growth and relief package now—and Congress will work in a bipartisan way to find solutions for the immediate crisis and for a long-term economic recovery for America.

I am a proud member of the House Financial Services Committee and last week, we held a markup of legislation that will help address the foreclosure crisis. The first bill, H.R. 5818 provides \$15 billion in loans and grants to States to allow them to buy up repossessed properties. This will help ensure that abandoned homes don't stay on the market too long to keep home prices from dropping even further. The second bill, H.R. 5830 allows the FHA to insure up to \$300 billion in subprime loans so that these families in danger of foreclosure can refinance into a more affordable loan. It also provides money to housing counselors to increase their efforts in underserved, poor, and minority communities.

Congress is doing its part to help stabilize our economy and help keep families in their homes. This resolution supports our efforts by calling on the President to issue a proclamation calling on the Federal Government, States, localities, schools, nonprofit organizations, businesses, other entities to observe Financial Literacy Month with community programs and events. This outreach will help us raise public awareness about financial education and is particularly important for our country's present and future economic well-being.

I urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 1079.

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support H. Res. 1079. Financial stability is the foundation on which freedom and prosperity are built. It is vital that all Americans grab hold of their personal finances so that families and future generations of Americans have the op-

portunity to prosper. I rise to honor the goals and ideals "Financial Literacy Month" represents, and urge the nation to secure their finances and plan for the years to come.

As a member of the Financial Literacy Caucus and co-sponsor of this resolution, I join my colleagues in acknowledging the importance of financial planning and encourage Americans to set goals rather than live from paycheck to paycheck. With the assistance of dedicated financial planners, Americans can be educated and assisted with setting up a sound financial plan and provide for their family a more secure life.

Through a financial plan, we begin to dream. When we dream, we have the incentive to save; and through savings, we flourish financially.

Through a variety of activities, workshops, and seminars in local communities, citizens will have the ideal opportunity to speak with knowledgeable financial planners and begin to paint a picture of a more sound and secure future of financial independence.

Mr. Speaker, I am thrilled to co-sponsor this resolution so that many Americans, for the first time, can begin to dream of a life of financial security, and work to reach their highest goals and aspirations.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 1079, supporting the goals and ideals of Financial Literacy Month. I would first like to thank my distinguished colleague, RUBÉN HINOJOSA of Texas, for introducing this important legislation. I believe basic financial literacy is imperative to ensure that individuals are capable of making financial choices, as well as managing money, credit, debt, and risk and becoming responsible workers, heads of households, investors, entrepreneurs, business leaders, and financially stable citizens. Understanding how each of these topics work together and affect each other is important for laying the groundwork for solid financial foundation for you and your family.

Personal financial management skills and lifelong habits begin to develop during childhood. In 2006, the JumpStart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy found that high school seniors knew less about principles of basic personal finance than did high school seniors 7 years earlier, and the average scores in both years were failing grades. Financial security is the cornerstone of prosperous communities, nurturing neighborhoods and strong families. However, many individuals and families are experiencing financial crisis because of inadequate savings, too much debt and poor planning for potential major life events. Today, a majority of consumers are experiencing some sort of financial difficulty causing a significant impact on their everyday lives. In fact, Americans carry more than \$2 trillion in consumer debt and 30 percent of consumers report having no extra cash—making it impossible to escape the financial burden of living paycheck to paycheck. On average, U.S. households carry about \$8,000 in credit card debt alone. The total U.S. consumer credit card—revolving credit—debt was \$937.5 billion in November 2007 which is absolutely unheard of.

Far too many Americans are insufficiently educated about their personal finances. The personal savings rate in the United States was zero percent at the end of the fourth quarter of 2007, which puts it among the lowest since

the government began collecting the data in 1959. Shockingly, about half of adults—49 percent—say they are concerned they have not paid enough attention to managing their finances as they should have and 48 percent are concerned they don't know enough about financial planning; 4 out of 10 American workers are not saving for retirement. Public, community-based, and private sector organizations throughout the United States are working to increase financial literacy rates for Americans of all ages and walks of life through a range of outreach efforts, including media campaigns, Web sites, and one-on-one counseling for individuals.

Mr. Speaker, I urge Members of Congress in a time of economic crises and brink of economic recession, to promote literacy in all aspects of finance. I support the goals and efforts established by the National Council on Economic Education, the JumpStart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy, its State affiliates, and its partner organizations for supporting the goals and ideals of Financial Literacy Month, including raising public awareness about financial education. I recognize the importance of managing personal finances, increasing personal savings and reducing indebtedness in the United States. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation that requests the President to issue a proclamation calling on the Federal Government, States, localities, schools, nonprofit organizations, businesses, other entities, and the people of the United States to observe the month with appropriate programs and activities with the goal of increasing financial literacy rates for individuals of all ages and walks of life.

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. BIGGERT. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1079.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

FINANCIAL CONSUMER HOTLINE ACT OF 2007

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4332) to amend the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council Act to require the Council to establish a single telephone number that consumers with complaints or inquiries could call and be routed to the appropriate Federal banking agency or State bank supervisor, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4332

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Financial Consumer Hotline Act of 2007".

SEC. 2. CENTRALIZED INTAKE OF CONSUMER COMPLAINTS AND INQUIRIES MADE TO FEDERAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTION REGULATORY AGENCIES.

The Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council Act of 1978 (12 U.S.C. 3301 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 1009A the following new section:

"SEC. 1009B. CONSUMER COMPLAINTS AND INQUIRIES.

"(a) SINGLE TOLL-FREE TELEPHONE NUMBER FOR CONSUMER COMPLAINTS AND INQUIRIES.—

"(1) CALL INTAKE SYSTEM.—The Federal financial institution regulatory agencies, coordinating through the Council, shall establish a single, toll-free telephone number for consumer complaints and inquiries concerning institutions regulated by such agencies and a system for routing such calls to the Federal financial institution regulatory agency that primarily supervises the financial institution, or that is otherwise the appropriate agency to address the subject of the complaint or inquiry.

"(2) ROUTING CALLS TO STATES.—To the extent practicable, State agencies may receive appropriate call transfers from the system established under paragraph (1) if—

"(A) the State agency's system has the functional capacity to receive calls routed by the system; and

"(B) the State agency has satisfied any conditions of participation in the system that the Council, coordinating with State agencies through the chairperson of the State Liaison Committee, may establish.

"(b) REPORT TO THE CONGRESS.—Not later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of the Financial Consumer Hotline Act of 2007, the Federal financial institution regulatory agencies shall submit a report to the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate describing the agencies' efforts to establish—

"(1) a public interagency Web site for directing and referring Internet consumer complaints and inquiries concerning any financial institution to the Federal financial institution regulatory agency that primarily supervises the financial institution, or to the Federal financial institution regulatory agency or State agency that is otherwise the appropriate agency to address the subject of the complaint or inquiry; and

"(2) a system to expedite the prompt and effective rerouting of any misdirected consumer complaint or inquiry documents between or among the agencies, with prompt referral of any complaint or inquiry to the appropriate Federal financial institution regulatory agency, and to participating State agencies."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) and the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this legislation and to insert extraneous material thereon.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 4332, the Financial Consumers Hotline Act of 2008, which has received strong bipartisan support from the Financial Services Committee.

The bill establishes a single toll-free telephone number that consumers can call if they have a problem with their bank and want to speak to someone who can help them.

Given that depository institutions in the United States can be regulated by any of five Federal regulators or a State regulator, consumers often don't know what entity to call if they have a problem with their account.

In a hearing in my subcommittee, the regulators and consumer groups testified that customers often end up calling their Attorney General. Since State authority over national banks has been preempted by the Federal OCC, AGs can't help in this category.

This legislation builds on a suggestion that Comptroller Dugan put forward to provide consumers with a single number to call to get help with their banking issues, and we drafted it in close consultation with all five regulators.

As the OCC, the FDIC, and the OTS all testified, this legislation will be cost efficient as well as consumer friendly. I should note that CBO came out with an estimate last week. The bill would have no significant effect on direct spending or revenues. So this legislation can help our constituents without spending any money.

Right now, each of the agencies has a Web site and provides a phone number for consumers to call with questions and has a staff to follow up on complaints or inquiries, some of which may be unique to their responsibilities. For example, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation has systems in place to respond to consumer inquiries about deposit insurance and bank failures.

This bill would not replace these existing consumer response systems, but helps consumers find them. It adds a simple one-stop routing method to minimize confusion for consumers who are unclear about where to call for help and directs them to the right agency for specialized assistance. The establishment of a single toll-free number will help encourage greater use of the agency's resources to help their consumers.

Establishment of a single toll-free number will also assist the banking regulators in compiling consumer complaints and inquiries so that better information would be available about problems or issues that cut across the institutions that the various agencies supervise. It would help governments spot developing problems. Congressional legislation and oversight would

also be better informed by such centralized statistics.

This legislation directs the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council to set up the hotline. The Council is an existing interagency body established by statute to prescribe uniform principles and standards for financial institutions and to otherwise coordinate regulatory activity among the Federal banking regulators. The Federal Reserve, FDIC, NCUA, OCC, and OTS are all members of the Council.

The legislation also directs the Council to work with State banking regulators to integrate them into the hotline service. And, the Conference of State Bank Supervisors testified that they have already started to implement such a plan. The act also requires the Council to report to Congress 6 months after enactment on the agency's efforts to establish a public interagency Web site, likewise directing and referring consumer complaints and inquiries received on the Internet concerning any financial institution to the appropriate Federal or State financial institution regulatory agency.

I should note that not only the OCC but the Council as a whole has taken some steps in this direction on its own initiative, with an eye to both cutting costs and improving service to consumers. Last summer, the Council formed a working group to study ways in which the separate consumer complaint handling systems of each regulator could be streamlined and leveraged to better and more efficiently serve consumers.

With this legislation, we give consumers a statutory mandate and a timetable to support and guide these efforts, as well as a framework for congressional oversight.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill. I thank the Chair and the ranking member and subcommittee Ranking Member BIGGERT and many others for their help on this legislation. I urge a "yea" vote.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would like to thank the gentleman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY), the Chair of the Financial Institution Subcommittee, for her hard work on this bill, and I am pleased to be a cosponsor of this bill and urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. Speaker, if you are a consumer and you have a complaint or a problem of a financial nature, which regulator are you going to call, the FDIC, the Federal Reserve, the OCC, the CFTC, FTC, OFHEO, HUD, Treasury, OTS, NCUA, the SEC? In these challenging times, consumers should not have to have a Ph.D. in finance to quickly and easily get in touch with the appropriate State and Federal banking regulators.

Given the complexity of our banking system and the various regulators that work in this area, consumers may not

know where to turn when they have a dispute with their institutions. This legislation creates a single hotline that can help steer consumers in the right direction. Federal regulators currently have had an informal system in place to redirect misplaced consumer complaints, and regulators are constantly trying to improve the system. But this bill will ensure that no consumer complaint falls through the cracks. Consumers should not have to make 12 phone calls to find the right regulator.

Again, I am pleased that this bill will ensure that consumer complaints are heard and that regulators are responsive. I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4332.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

SENSE OF HOUSE ESTABLISHING NATIONAL WATERMELON MONTH

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the resolution (H. Res. 578) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that there should be established a National Watermelon Month, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 578

Whereas watermelon production constitutes an important sector of the agricultural industry of the United States;

Whereas, according to the January 2006 statistics compiled by the National Agricultural Statistics Service of the United States Department of Agriculture, the United States produces 4,200,000,000 pounds of watermelon annually;

Whereas watermelon is grown in 49 States, is purchased and consumed in all 50 States, and is exported to Canada;

Whereas evidence indicates that eating 2.5 to 5 cups of fruits and vegetables daily as part of a healthy diet will improve health and protect against diseases such as cancer, high blood pressure, stroke, and heart disease;

Whereas proper diet and nutrition are important factors in preventing diseases such as childhood obesity and diabetes;

Whereas watermelon has no fat or cholesterol and is an excellent source of the vitamins A, B6, and C, fiber, and potassium, which are vital to good health and disease prevention;

Whereas watermelon is also an excellent source of lycopene;

Whereas lycopene, an antioxidant found only in a few red plant foods, has been shown to reduce the risk of certain cancers;

Whereas watermelon is a heart-healthy food that has qualified for the heart-check mark from the American Heart Association;

Whereas watermelon has been a nutritious summer favorite from generation to generation;

Whereas it is important to educate citizens of the United States regarding the health benefits of watermelon and other fruits and vegetables; and

Whereas July would be an appropriate month to establish as National Watermelon Month: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that there should be established a National Watermelon Month to recognize the health benefits of watermelon and the importance of watermelon to the agriculture industry of the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KUCINICH) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of H. Res. 578 that will establish a National Watermelon Month.

Watermelon has been enjoyed over the years as one of our country's favorite foods. As Mark Twain said, "It is chief of this world's luxuries, king by the grace of God over all the fruits of the earth. When one has tasted it, he knows what the angels eat."

According to the United States Agriculture Department statistics, the United States produces 4.2 billion pounds of watermelon annually. This summertime staple ranges in size from 5 pounds to over 40 pounds, and is grown in 49 States. Many towns in the U.S. strive to become the Watermelon Capital of the World; however, Cordele, Georgia has won this title repeatedly by producing the biggest, best, and most abundant watermelons in the country. Watermelon may be eaten in a variety of ways and is also often used to flavor summer drinks, including sweet red wine.

And lest anyone accuse us of dealing with a frivolous subject, let me call attention to a serious matter. In a time where we have all become aware of the benefits of good nutrition, it is fortunate watermelon provides an excellent source of vitamin C, vitamin A, vitamin B, and vitamin B1. Additionally, many other beneficial minerals are

contained in watermelon and are shown to help prevent cancer, heart disease, high blood pressure, and a host of other serious diseases. Furthermore, the antioxidant lycopene, found only in a few red plant foods, has been shown to reduce the risk of certain cancers. Because watermelon is such a nutritious, heart-healthy food, the American Heart Association has qualified watermelon for the well-known "Heart-Check Mark."

The great joy of eating a slice of watermelon on a hot summer day lives in the memories of almost all Americans. For these nutritious and delicious reasons, I express my support to a National Watermelon Month that will provide the watermelon industry many opportunities to market their product and to educate the public about the health benefits associated with consuming watermelon through various related programs.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1545

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague for her expression of support for the resolution. I am also going to support the resolution. I just want to add one note of observation so that all those who are enjoying watermelons in this country also keep in mind the people who do the work, who pick those watermelons. It is hard work.

Today we have other bills under suspension that will give us a chance to celebrate the work of laborers. I think that it is important that we are grateful for those who pick the watermelons, and we have to recognize in this market where there are increasing restrictions on migrant workers, making it very difficult for farmers to get the kind of labor that they used to get. We are also seeing that many farmers are beginning to turn to prison labor. This should be a concern to us, all of us who want to make sure that all of those people out of jobs right now in this country who would like to work on farms would have the chance to get that work.

There is an article from the Christian Science Monitor that refers to this problem. I would like to include that in the RECORD. There also is an article about a settlement that was reached with workers regarding the attempt by a major agricultural company to circumvent Department of Labor rules and also circumvent the H-2A program that resulted actually in a settlement of a very prominent lawsuit about a month ago. I would like to include that article from the Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid.

[From the Christian Science Monitor, Aug. 22, 2007]

U.S. FARMERS USING PRISON LABOR

With tightening restrictions on migrant workers, some farmers are turning to the incarcerated.

For labor-rights activists, federal immigration reform is the only viable solution to worker shortages.

Marc Grossman, spokesman for the United Farm Workers of America, says inmate labor undermines what unionized farm workers have wanted for years: to be paid based on skill and experience. "It's rather insulting that the state [Arizona] would look so poorly on farm workers that they would attempt to use inmates," Grossman says. There is also the food-safety aspect, he says: Experienced workers understand sanitary harvesting.

"Agriculture does not have a reliable workforce, and the answer does not lie with prison labor," says Paul Simonds of the Western Growers Association, a trade association representing California and Arizona. "This just underscores the need for legislation to be passed to provide a legal, stable workforce." A prison lockdown would be disastrous, he points out, with perishable crops awaiting harvest. Other crops, like asparagus and broccoli, require skilled workers.

Although the ADC is considering innovative solutions—including satellite prisons—to fulfill companies' requests for inmate labor, prison officials agree that, in the end, the demand is too high. "To go into a state where agriculture is worth \$9.2 billion and expect to meet a workforce need is impossible," says Katie Decker, spokeswoman for ADC. At any given time only about 3,300 prisoners statewide (out of a prison population of about 37,000) are cleared to work outside.

ACI provides inmates to nine private agriculture companies in Arizona, ranging from a hydroponics greenhouse tomato plant to a green chile cannery. Unlike other sectors where federal regulations require that inmate workers be paid a prevailing wage and receive worker compensation, agriculture companies can hire state inmates on a contract basis. They must be paid a minimum of \$2 per hour. Thirty percent of their wages go to room and board in prison. The rest goes to court-ordered restitution for victims, any child support, and a mandatory savings account. Private companies are required to pay for transportation from the prison to the worksite and for prison guards.

For Reyna, his work on farms over the past couple of years has added \$9,000 in his savings account and given him a renewed respect for his Mexican father's lifetime of stoop labor.

At Dixon's farm, it's 103 degrees F. The inmate crews, wearing orange jumpsuits, work in a rhythmic line, calling out the number of the watermelons, and alongside the trailer. Just a few yards away, Mexican workers also work in a line. The inmates will quit at 4 p.m., while the immigrant laborers may work 13-hour days. "We go back, they stay out there," Reyna says. "It really isn't the same."

In the farm's office, watermelons line the counter, and photos of migrant workers hang in dusty frames. When asked why he doesn't sell the farm, Dixon says, "the inmates, the migrants, these people are part of the family—that's why I keep this darn place."

Dixon says he supports the idea of a reformed, guest-worker program that would employ migrant workers during the harvest and return them to Mexico in the winter. But until that happens, he's willing to fight for the workers he's shared the land with for most of his life.

"People are crossing the border because they are starving to death," Dixon says, "I don't care what their status is. If they are hungry and thirsty, I am going to feed them."

"I could sell this and quit," he continues, "But I believe in supporting the American farming industry."

[From the Texas RioGrande Legal Aid Press Center, Mar. 26, 2008]

FARMWORKERS REACH SETTLEMENT IN LAWSUIT AGAINST WATERMELON GROWER

EAGLE PASS, TX.—Twenty two Texas farmworkers have reached a settlement with three Rio Grande Valley companies over a lawsuit regarding the importation of more than 400 foreign guestworkers into the United States between 2001 and 2007.

Represented by Texas RioGrande Legal Aid (TRLA), the leading provider of legal aid in Texas, the workers claimed that Nowell Borders, L.P., Hargill Harvesting & Packing, Inc., Mata Trucking Company, and Martinez Packing Company, upon advice of counsel, misused the U.S. visa program to hire foreign labor and avoid providing housing, transportation, and meals to workers. The companies applied for guestworker visas using the H-2B program instead of the H-2A program which would have required the recruitment of domestic workers at higher wages.

"This settlement signifies a commitment on behalf of all four companies to engage in fair employment practices and respect the rights of American farmworkers," said TRLA attorney Javier Riojas. The settlement also creates a mechanism for resolving future disputes without resorting to litigation.

John Flanigan, Executive Vice President for Hargill Harvesting and Packing, Inc., states he was pleased with the agreement that was reached and enjoyed working with TRLA to resolve the dispute.

The companies compensated the workers for more than \$60,000 in wages and agreed to modify their employment practices so that U.S. workers are hired first and receive equal pay and benefits compared to foreign workers. The companies also agreed to use the H-2A guestworker program that provides more benefits and protections for workers than the H-2B program.

Originally filed in October 2007, the lawsuit also targeted the Department of Labor (DOL) for its failure to enforce the regulations on the guestworker program. The case against DOL is not part of the settlement and is still ongoing. See Riojas, et al v. Chao, DR-07-CA-058, W.D. Tex., filed Oct. 9, 2007.

"The law guarantees that U.S. workers have certain protections over foreign labor. The Department of Labor looked the other way in this situation and the federal government, of all entities, should be looking out for U.S. workers the most," added TRLA attorney and Equal Justice Works Fellow Jake Wedemeyer.

Established in 1970, Texas RioGrande Legal Aid, Inc. (TRLA) is a nonprofit organization that provides free civil legal services to low-income and disadvantaged clients in a 68-country service area. TRLA's mission is to promote the dignity, self-sufficiency, safety and stability of low-income Texas residents by providing high-quality legal assistance and related educational services.

If we keep in mind there are 4.2 billion pounds of watermelons grown in this country annually, we understand that this is a very important business. It is also, as my friend Representative Foxx points out, a matter that relates to nutrition and health; and let's face it, enjoyment. People love watermelon. While enjoying it, we need to keep in mind the people who are doing the work raising this tremendous fruit. Let's remember those workers and make sure that they have basic rights. Let's make sure that they can make a living and support their families. Let's

make sure that they live in conditions that are humane. In that way we can truly celebrate National Watermelon Month, not only for those consuming watermelons, but also those helping to grow and harvest those watermelons.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I want to give thanks to all those who grow and produce watermelons and make it possible for all of us to eat them, those who plant, grow, and pick them and get them to markets where we can enjoy them. I urge Members to support the passage of H. Res. 578.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlelady and congratulate her on her service in the Congress and say how much I enjoy working with her.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KUCINICH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 578, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

NATIONAL FUNERAL DIRECTOR AND MORTICIAN RECOGNITION DAY

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 892) expressing support for designation of March 11, 2008, as "National Funeral Director and Mortician Recognition Day," as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 892

Whereas the death of a family member, friend, or loved one is a devastating emotional event;

Whereas the memorialization and celebration of the decedent's life is the fabric of today's funeral service;

Whereas the family of the decedent has traditionally looked to funeral directors and morticians for consolation, strength, and guidance in the planning and implementation of a funeral ceremony; and

Whereas March 11, 2008, would be an appropriate day to designate as "National Funeral Director and Mortician Recognition Day" to pay tribute to these funeral directors and morticians who, day in and day out, assist our Nation's families in their times of sadness and grief and help families mourn a death and celebrate a life: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives supports the designation of a "National Funeral Director and Mortician Recognition Day".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KUCINICH) and the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio.

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, in recognition of the fact that one of our colleagues, Representative WILSON who I am proud to say is from the State of Ohio, has a family-owned business and is a funeral director, I yield him such time as he may consume.

Mr. WILSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 892 which I introduced to express the support for the establishment of the National Funeral Director and Mortician Recognition Day.

I introduced this resolution because I know firsthand how funeral directors help families through the grieving process in a most difficult time.

Mr. Speaker, I am a fourth generation funeral director in my family, and I know very well the profound service that funeral directors provide to their communities. Funeral directors are on call 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. When a family calls a funeral director to make arrangements for a recently deceased loved one, the funeral director must put everything else on hold and attend to the family's needs immediately.

We all know that the death of a loved one can be emotionally devastating. Funeral directors play an essential role in giving families the space they need to navigate the grieving process. By taking care of all of the logistical arrangements, funeral directors allow families to celebrate the life of the recently departed and spending time together as a family.

Funeral directors also provide a major public service by participating in planning for pandemic disease and other mass casualty events that could happen within their community. Because of their familiarity with the physical aspects of death, they provide invaluable technical knowledge and assistance to public officials who are responsible for contingency planning.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to say that funeral homes are also economic anchors of their community. The funeral business is often a family business with multiple generations serving the community as funeral directors. Through good economic times and bad, funeral directors are there to serve their families with caring compassion and certainly with strict integrity.

As a lifelong funeral director, I know how important this service is to grieving families. This is why I think that it is proper that this Congress recognize the hard work and the sacrifice of thousands of funeral directors in this country by passing this bill. I thank Chairman WAXMAN for his support in this measure, and I urge the Congress to support it.

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge passage of this resolution expressing support for the designation of a National

Funeral Director and Mortician Recognition Day. Mr. Speaker, I think it is critical that we recognize the service that our Nation's funeral directors and morticians provide at one of the most difficult times in a person's life. Death is something that affects us all. It sees no boundaries, nor does it discriminate among social or economic classes. It hits us all in different ways, but one thing is for certain: the time immediately following the death of a loved one is one of the most trying times for anyone. It is during this critical time that funeral directors and morticians from around the country provide our Nation's citizens with the support and guidance necessary to make the right decisions for their beloved ones.

This allows for those who are grieving to concentrate on what is most important: supporting family and friends. Funeral directors and morticians have the arduous task of carrying out the final wishes of the deceased. They are involved in all details of the process, everything from arranging for pallbearers to making sure that the correct paperwork is completed to file for appropriate certificates with the State.

They are tasked with demonstrating the same compassion with every family they meet, as if that family is the most important family that the funeral director has ever met.

It is also important to recognize that most funeral homes are small, family-owned and operated facilities. These individuals work long, irregular hours and contribute to the economic well-being of communities around our Nation.

Ultimately, Mr. Speaker, I believe recognizing those in this caring community is long overdue. They are entrusted with the enormous task of making the last hours you will have with the earthly remains of loved ones as peaceful as possible.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all Members to join me in supporting this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I support this resolution. I am from Cleveland, Ohio, and all of us know in any community we are from, we come into contact with funeral directors and morticians. Funeral directors make it possible for families to be able to find a way to come to grips with a passing. Those transitions in life are very important moments for the survivors because we need help in being able to deal with a situation when we lose a loved one, and funeral directors perform a very valuable service.

I know as someone who represents the people of Cleveland that when I go to pay my respects to someone who has passed, I have the opportunity not only to meet the families that are grieving and comfort them, but also to see the work that is being done by those who are directing the funeral. It is something that is easy to lose sight of when you are moving into territory that is laden with grief. But it is also something that is appropriate for us at this

moment to pay tribute to because everyone who is involved in that work really has to achieve a level of sensitivity and compassion and caring so that they can help families deal with what for many is one of the most serious moments of their lives involving the passing of a loved one.

I want to thank Representative WILSON for his choice of career and his family's commitment to providing that kind of compassionate service to people, and also my colleague, Representative FOXX, for supporting this bill.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I also thank my colleague from Ohio (Mr. WILSON) for his service, and I urge all Members to support the passage of H. Res. 892.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. KUCINICH. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KUCINICH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 892, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The title was amended so as to read: "Resolution expressing support for designation of a 'National Funeral Director and Mortician Recognition Day'".

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1073) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that public servants should be commended for their dedication and continued service to the Nation during Public Service Recognition Week, May 5 through 11, 2008.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1073

Whereas Public Service Recognition Week provides an opportunity to recognize and promote the important contributions of public servants and honor the diverse men and women who meet the needs of the Nation through work at all levels of government;

Whereas millions of individuals work in government service in every city, county, and State across America and in hundreds of cities abroad;

Whereas public service is a noble calling involving a variety of challenging and rewarding professions;

Whereas Federal, State, and local governments are responsive, innovative, and effective because of the outstanding work of public servants;

Whereas the United States of America is a great and prosperous Nation, and public service employees contribute significantly to that greatness and prosperity;

Whereas the Nation benefits daily from the knowledge and skills of these highly trained individuals;

Whereas public servants—

(1) defend our freedom and advance United States interests around the world;

(2) provide vital strategic support functions to our military and serve in the National Guard and Reserves;

(3) fight crime and fires;

(4) ensure equal access to secure, efficient, and affordable mail service;

(5) deliver Social Security and Medicare benefits;

(6) fight disease and promote better health;

(7) protect the environment and the Nation's parks;

(8) enforce laws guaranteeing equal employment opportunity and healthy working conditions;

(9) defend and secure critical infrastructure;

(10) help the Nation recover from natural disasters and terrorist attacks;

(11) teach and work in our schools and libraries;

(12) develop new technologies and explore the earth, moon, and space to help improve our understanding of how our world changes;

(13) improve and secure our transportation systems;

(14) promote economic growth; and

(15) assist active duty service members and veterans;

Whereas members of the uniformed services and civilian employees at all levels of government make significant contributions to the general welfare of the United States, and are on the front lines in the fight against terrorism and in maintaining homeland security;

Whereas public servants work in a professional manner to build relationships with other countries and cultures in order to better represent America's interests and promote American ideals;

Whereas public servants alert Congress and the public to government waste, fraud, abuse, and dangers to public health;

Whereas the men and women serving in the Armed Forces of the United States, as well as those skilled trade and craft Federal employees who provide support to their efforts, are committed to doing their jobs regardless of the circumstances, and contribute greatly to the security of the Nation and the world;

Whereas public servants have bravely fought in armed conflict in defense of this Nation and its ideals and deserve the care and benefits they have earned through their honorable service;

Whereas government workers have much to offer, as demonstrated by their expertise and innovative ideas, and serve as examples by passing on institutional knowledge to train the next generation of public servants;

Whereas May 5 through 11, 2008, has been designated Public Service Recognition Week to honor America's Federal, State, and local government employees; and

Whereas Public Service Recognition Week is celebrating its 24th anniversary through job fairs, student activities, and agency exhibits: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) commends public servants for their outstanding contributions to this great Nation during Public Service Recognition Week and throughout the year;

(2) salutes government employees for their unyielding dedication and spirit for public service;

(3) honors those government employees who have given their lives in service to their country;

(4) calls upon a new generation to consider a career in public service as an honorable profession; and

(5) encourages efforts to promote public service careers at all levels of government.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from

Ohio (Mr. KUCINICH) and the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio.

□ 1600

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, all those of us who chose to be in elected office realize that we can't do our jobs unless there is a vast array of people who are in every category of employment, doing their jobs. And those workers in many cases, are people who are public employees.

Public employees may be people who are working in the streets. They may be people who pick up the garbage; they may be people who are working desk jobs. There are people who perform so many different functions.

At a Federal level, public employees are involved in providing direct service to people, whether it's making sure that people get their Social Security checks, their Medicare benefits, making sure that people have the opportunity to be able to have access to important government services.

Public service is a worthy profession. It's one that we ought to be encouraging young people to be involved in. It's one that needs to achieve more appreciation, not less. In this era where people try to attack government, they're actually attacking the people who do the work of government. We need to lift up the position of government workers. This resolution of Public Service Recognition Week is certainly one way to do it. And it allows us to demonstrate the involvement of public employees in the daily life surrounding our communities and, in turn, we're reminded that we live in the United States of America, relying on each other to ensure the stability and greatness of our country.

This is an important moment when we can recognize, through this resolution, everyone who serves. Each person who serves is worthy of respect. There is no level of service which is not worthy of respect. Dr. King pointed that out in some of his speeches when he talked about the street sweeper, how that street sweeper should sweep streets in a way that would reflect a great virtuoso performance.

We need to have that kind of awareness that those who perform the daily work of government, at a local, county, State and Federal level, and also at regional levels, are people who love their country, love their community and ought to be honored.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to rise today in support of H. Res. 1073, honoring the millions of dedicated public employees who serve our Nation. Our country would have a difficult time functioning without its innovative, professional, highly trained public service employees. At all levels of government, you will find hardworking

staff implementing policies that make our country prosper and thrive through their contributions.

The expertise and work ethic offered by these individuals sets an honorable example for future generations of public employees, as well as those in the private sector.

From emergency responders to librarians and educators, public servants span the spectrum of jobs. They keep our country efficient and safe. Beyond the tremendous work of civilian employees, uniformed service personnel and the members of our Armed Forces are those on the front lines in the fight to maintain national security. They provide vital strategic support for our Nation's military, both at home and abroad. Additionally, their tremendous accomplishments in providing support to our 50 States, as well as countries overseas with natural disaster relief, is to be commended.

Once again, I congratulate these employees who help make up the fabric of our country and government for performing the challenging and oftentimes thankless jobs with honor and dedication. I appreciate them for moving our country forward, as well as maintaining our safety and security.

For these reasons, I express my support of Public Service Recognition Week.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KUCINICH. I would like to take this opportunity, before we close the debate, to thank those who are involved in public service in my own community, in Cleveland, Cuyahoga County, Ohio.

Having served in municipal government for many years, I understand how important the daily work of a city is. And I know that its people who repair the streets, who pick up the garbage, who make sure that the lights are repaired, who make sure the traffic signals work, who answer calls for fire or police protection, I know that all of those individuals love their community and they deserve to be appreciated.

Also, on a county level, in Cuyahoga County, you have many workers who are unsung for their service as clerks, people who work in recording deeds, people who work in collecting taxes, people who work in seeing that welfare services are given, case workers and others, they're all public servants and all public employees. This resolution is a fitting way to honor those individuals.

And I just wanted to cite specifically Cleveland and Cuyahoga County, because, having been involved with that constituency for so long, I understand the workers who make possible the work of those various governmental jurisdictions.

At this time I would reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 1073 and the hard-working public servants it so deservedly recognizes today.

As the son of a career foreign service officer and a State Department analyst, public service—in all its forms—has always been a value in my family. Whether you're talking about soldiers putting themselves on the line for our nation, police and firefighters protecting our communities, scientists and researchers developing breakthrough medicines, or teachers and librarians educating our children, it should be clear to all who stop and think about it that America simply could not be its best without the ongoing courage, intelligence and efforts of its public servants.

That is why I believe so strongly in the enduring value of a robust, highly trained and dynamic civil service—and in pursuing public policies that can recruit and retain that kind of workforce. For me, that means pay parity for civil servants, a decent and dignified workplace across the government, genuinely fair rules for outsourcing competitions and benefit packages that will enable more of our best and brightest to pursue careers in public service over otherwise potentially more lucrative opportunities in the private sector. It also means generating a renewed sense of excitement and respect for public service careers in the culture.

Mr. Speaker, towards that end, I believe this resolution is well-deserved and a terrific place to start. I look forward to working more closely with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to put the spirit of today's resolution into action as we deliberate policy affecting our public servants throughout the rest of the year.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 1073, "Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that public servants should be commended for their dedication and continued service to the Nation during Public Service Recognition Week, May 5 through 11, 2008," introduced by my distinguished colleague from Illinois, Representative DANNY K. DAVIS. This important legislation illustrates a nation's commitment to recognize the work and fortitude of public service and the numerous citizens who are employed in that division.

Government workers have much to offer, as demonstrated by their expertise and innovative ideas, and serve as examples by passing on institutional knowledge to train the next generation of public servants. The Public Service Recognition Week encourages a new generation to consider a career in public service as an admirable profession. The week also serves to promote the significant contributions of public servants and to honor men and women at all levels of government.

During Public Service Recognition Week, Federal, State, county and local public employees take part in events such as job fairs, student activities, and agency exhibits that celebrate the broad variety of services performed by employees at all levels of government. Public Service Recognition Week, celebrated the first Monday through Sunday in May since 1985, is a time set aside each year to honor the diverse men and women who meet the needs of the Nation through work at the Federal, State and local government levels.

Throughout the Nation, public employees use Public Service Recognition Week to educate citizens about the many ways in which the Federal government serves the people and how Federal government services make life better for all of us. Public service employees are the educators who instruct us in com-

plex academia, the policemen and firemen who fight crime and fires, the physicians who fight disease and promote better health, and the military who consistently defend our freedom and advance United States interests around the world. Public service employees encompass the fields of public transportation, waste management, social services, housing, electricity and more. These hard workers deserve the care and benefits they have earned through their honorable service.

The Nation benefits daily from the knowledge and skills of these highly trained individuals. The services that these workers provide are a necessity to modern life and is understood that its universal provision should be guaranteed. It is imperative that Congress recognizes the magnitude of the worker's job and its subsequent effects on environmental integrity, human health and overall quality of life in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, we should continuously honor our government employees who have given their lives in service to this country. The most important reason for Public Service Recognition Week is the need to celebrate and recognize the valuable services that millions of public servants provide to the Nation. All too often, the contributions made by America's public employees to our democracy are forgotten—not only by our fellow citizens but even by those of us who serve. Public servants alert Congress and the public to government waste, fraud, abuse, and dangers to public health. The Federal, State, and local governments are responsive, innovative, and effective because of the exceptional work of public servants, and this involvement should not be disregarded.

Public service employees play a significant role in the greatness and affluence of the United States. I humbly commend public servants for their outstanding contributions to this great Nation during Public Service Recognition Week and throughout the year for their unyielding dedication and spirit for public service. I strongly urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important legislation, and, in so doing, giving our public service personnel the respect and recognition they deserve.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support the passage of H. Res. 1073, and yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. KUCINICH. I yield back.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KUCINICH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1073.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SENSE OF HOUSE ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL LETTER CARRIERS APPRECIATION DAY

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 49) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that there should be established a National Letter Carriers Appreciation Day.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 49

Whereas the commercial activity and economic vitality of the Nation is significantly enhanced by the timely and efficient service of letter carriers of the United States Postal Service;

Whereas letter carriers of the United States Postal Service provide mail delivery service to over 144,000,000 households across the Nation;

Whereas letter carriers of the United States Postal Service deliver more than 43 tons of mail per year, averaging approximately 2,300 letters, cards, magazines, and circulars per carrier a day;

Whereas letter carriers of the United States Postal Service delivered approximately 212,000,000,000 pieces of mail in 2005;

Whereas letter carriers of the United States Postal Service handle over 44 percent of the world's mail volume, more than any other national postal service; and

Whereas the United States Postal Service employs over 705,000 career letter carriers and 98,000 noncareer employees, making it the 3rd largest employer in the Nation; Now, therefore be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives supports the goals and ideals of a National Letter Carriers Appreciation Day to recognize the unique contributions made by letter carriers of the United States Postal Service to the well-being and prosperity of the Nation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KUCINICH) and the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio.

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, we're honoring workers today, and it's appropriate, among those workers, that we single out letter carriers.

As a member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I'm pleased to join my colleagues in support of H. Res. 49, which seeks to commemorate our Nation's postal carriers for their dedication and hard work.

By consistently delivering the mail in a timely and congenial fashion for over hundreds of years, mail carriers have become an irreplaceable component, not only to the economy of America, but to the culture and livelihood of our country.

I believe we have a tendency to forget how important the every day service is. Yet, if we were to go 1 day without the United States Postal Service, over 2,300 pieces of mail per carrier would go undelivered.

It is our mail carriers who help preserve the concept of universal service that is so integral to the work of the United States Postal Service.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this resolution expressing the sense that there should be established a National Letter Carriers Appreciation Day.

The emblematic quote, "Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds" is emblazoned across the front of the Farley Post Office in New York City. It is safe to say we all know this famous, yet unofficial motto of the United States Postal Service.

However, we can easily forget how much we appreciate and depend on the dedicated letter carriers of the United States Postal Service. These tireless public servants ensure that over 144 million households receive more than 43 tons of mail each year, equal to 44 percent of the world's mail volume.

Letter carriers, also referred to as mailmen or mail carriers, are the public face of the U.S. Postal Service. As the front line, carriers are routinely pressured to move faster, work harder and perform more tasks in a timely manner. In the most stressful of crafts, carriers are watched, timed and inspected more than any other employees.

There are three types of mail carriers in the United States, servicing all areas of this broad Nation. City letter carriers, represented by the National Association of Letter Carriers, skillfully navigate the expansive urban landscapes, providing efficient service to the millions of Americans living in densely populated areas.

Rural letter carriers, represented by the National Rural Letter Carriers' Association, support the diverse territory surrounding our cities. With increased development of rural areas, the Rural Carrier Craft is the only expanding craft in the Postal Service.

The final group of carriers, known as Highway Contract Route Carriers, work expansive routes where population density is less than one customer per mile driven. Driving their own vehicles, these committed carriers travel great distances to ensure timely delivery.

Whether they brave bustling urban jungles, constantly changing suburban expanses, or broad rural landscapes, these men and women brave all conditions to provide us with timely and effective mail service. For their efforts, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I'm hopeful that when this resolution passes, as I'm sure it will, that the United States Postal Service will post a copy of it in every post office in the country so that our letter carriers will be able to see that Members of Congress appreciate the work that they do.

Day in and day out our letter carriers are there. We rely on them to move the commerce of the country. Many of us are aware that the United States Postal Service is the third largest employer in America; that they employ over 700,000 career letter carriers, and 98,000 noncareer employees; that they move about 44 percent of the world's mail

volume. They have an extraordinarily important work to do in providing for communication in this country, in making sure that people here from one another in carrying messages that are so important to our commerce.

The United States Postal Service employees, these letter carriers that we're honoring today, deserve our constant appreciation for the work that they do. I'm so glad that this House is involved in paying attention to the people that do the everyday work of our Nation that aren't often recognized.

We who are in these exalted positions always need to remember that the work of the government is done in so many ways, and when somebody, step by step, moves through his or her appointed rounds, every day, out there delivering the mail, they deserve just as much respect as those of us who are holding high public office. And so it's with a great deal of appreciation for the letter carriers that I stand in support of the bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CAMP of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, House Resolution 49, which honors the dedication and contributions made by letter carriers across the country.

Being a representative of one of the largest congressional districts land-wise east of the Mississippi, I am well aware of the necessity of timely and efficient postal service.

Most of us rely on letter carriers of the United States Postal Service to deliver our monthly bills, drop off our favorite magazine, or ship an important package.

Amazingly, letter carriers delivered over 212 billion pieces of mail in 2005. That's 1.4 million pieces a day for every Congressional District.

Their dedication is accurately reflected in the unofficial USPS motto: "Neither snow, nor rain, nor heat, nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds."

This bill is a straight-forward resolution that expresses the sense of Congress that America's letter carriers make a vital contribution to the well-being and economic prosperity of our Nation and calls for a national day of appreciation to honor their service.

It is also important to recognize the contribution that letter carriers make to their communities through their community service efforts and charitable donations. These contributions are undoubtedly recognized by the American public as the USPS was voted "The Most Trusted Government Agency" earlier this month, for the fourth year in a row.

My fellow Members, we seem to spend a significant amount of time dedicating Post Offices; it is about time we honor those that work within them. I hope you will join me in saluting their efforts.

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express support for House Resolution 49, which would establish National Letter Carriers Appreciation Day. I want to thank the gentleman from Michigan, Mr. CAMP, for so kindly offering this resolution.

This resolution recognizes the significant role of American letter carriers, the largest mail delivery workforce in the world, which make deliveries to over 144 million households in this country. To ensure careful delivery of our most important letters and cards,

we depend on the exceptional service provided by our letter carriers. Most assuredly, the quality of the American mail delivery system is due to the integrity and superior service of these men and women. I want to especially recognize the diligent work of Georgia's letter carriers for everything they do for my constituents in the 13th Congressional District and across our State.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I offer my wholehearted support for the passage of this important legislation in recognition of the hard work of America's letter carriers.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support the passage of H. Res. 49, and yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KUCINICH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 49.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CORPORAL BRADLEY T. ARMS POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5631) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1155 Seminole Trail in Charlottesville, Virginia, as the "Corporal Bradley T. Arms Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5631

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. CORPORAL BRADLEY T. ARMS POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1155 Seminole Trail in Charlottesville, Virginia, shall be known and designated as the "Corporal Bradley T. Arms Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Corporal Bradley T. Arms Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KUCINICH) and the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the House Committee on

Oversight and Government Reform, I'm pleased to join my colleagues from the Commonwealth of Virginia in consideration of H.R. 5631, which names a post office facility in Charlottesville, Virginia, after Corporal Bradley T. Arms, a distinguished and heroic American serviceman.

H.R. 5631 was introduced by Representative GOODE of Virginia on March 13, 2008, and was considered by and reported from the Oversight Committee on April 9 by a voice vote. The measure has the support of the entire congressional delegation from Virginia, and provides us with another opportunity to pay tribute to a member of our country's Armed Forces.

A 20-year-old University of Georgia student from Charlottesville, Virginia, Corporal Bradley T. Arms was assigned to the 4th Combat Engineer Battalion, 4th Marine Division, Marine Corps Reserve, out of Baltimore, Maryland.

□ 1615

Corporal Arms left college the summer before his junior year to enlist in the United States Marine Corps where he would later serve a tour of duty in Iraq until his tragic death on November 19, 2004. Corporal Arms was killed in action in the Anbar province of Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, let's remember and pay tribute to the ultimate sacrifice made by Corporal Arms and pass H.R. 5631.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this bill to designate the post office located at 1155 Seminole Trail in Charlottesville, Virginia, as the "Corporal Bradley T. Arms Post Office Building."

On November 19, 2004, Corporal Bradley Arms was killed during small-arms fire in Anbar province, Iraq. It is only appropriate that we honor this fallen hero for the great sacrifice he made for his country.

Before becoming a Marine, Bradley was a student at the University of Georgia and a member of the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity. When he left Georgia before his junior year to serve in the 4th Division of the 4th Combat Engineer Battalion, it was with courage and optimism in his heart. He believed in what he was fighting for, and he wrote to his brothers of the changes he saw every day. He described his desire to influence the future of Iraq telling his friends that, "as long as we can keep younger generations open minded, then we will win this war."

His family members, who reside in Charlottesville, Virginia, remember Bradley's kindness and desire to help those who could not help themselves, one of the factors initially inspiring him to join the military.

When speaking to his parents shortly before his death, he told them he was confident that God had a plan for him and that he was exactly where he was supposed to be. While he was only 20 years old, Bradley aspired to live the life of a leader and be a positive role

model for those around him, and he did just that.

Those who knew Bradley recall his honor and enthusiasm, and in recognition of the unparalleled sacrifice he made for his country, it is fitting that we should dedicate this post office to his memory.

I would like to thank my respected colleague, Mr. GOODE, for introducing this important legislation honoring the memory of a valiant and courageous young man.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I would ask that all of our colleagues join us in paying respect, appreciation, and gratitude to the life and the service of Corporal Bradley Arms by joining us in approving this resolution which honors his name by naming a United States post office facility after him in recognition of his sacrifice.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Ohio for his eloquent words, and I, too, urge all Members to support the passage of H.R. 5631.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlelady from North Carolina.

Mr. GOODE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5631, a bill I introduced to designate the Charlottesville Post Office as the "Corporal Bradley Arms Post Office Building" in honor of a young man from the 5th District of Virginia who made the ultimate sacrifice in defending the United States of America.

Marine Corporal Bradley Arms died in combat at the age of 20 in the Anbar Province of Iraq on November 19, 2004 in service to his country. Originally from Charlottesville, Virginia, "Brad" attended the University of Georgia until he was called into service with the Marine Corps Reserve.

Friends and family described Brad as a friendly, caring, optimistic, patriotic and purposeful person. The three personal items he brought to Iraq appropriately illustrate his personality: a Bible, a picture of his family, and a University of Georgia flag. Brad was also a member of the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity at the University of Georgia. Family members recalled that Brad greatly enjoyed his fraternity brothers, friends, music, and faith in God.

While in Iraq, Brad often wrote to friends and family, displaying his positive attitude toward his mission in the military and demonstrating how proud he was to serve and defend his country. He said that his experiences in the military, "strengthened his resolve to live the life of a balanced man and lead by example."

Connor Rund, a young man who attends the same high school that Corporal Arms graduated from, contacted me suggesting that the Charlottesville Post Office be dedicated in Brad's honor. Since then, I have received several communications from members of the Charlottesville community in support of this tribute to Brad.

Please join me in honoring the memory of this young man who was a great son, friend, and patriot by supporting H.R. 5631 and renaming the Charlottesville Post Office as the "Corporal Bradley T. Arms Post Office Building."

I yield back the balance of my time.
The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KUCINICH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5631.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REQUESTING RETURN OF H.R. 493, GENETIC INFORMATION NON-DISCRIMINATION ACT OF 2008

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following privileged message from the Senate:

In the Senate of the United States, April 28, 2008.

Ordered, That the Secretary be directed to request the House of Representatives to return to the Senate the bill (H.R. 493) entitled "An Act to prohibit discrimination on the basis of genetic information with respect to health insurance and employment," and that upon the compliance of the request, the Secretary of the Senate be authorized to make corrections in the engrossment of the aforesaid bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the request of the Senate is agreed to, and H.R. 493 will be returned to the Senate.

There was no objection.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 18 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

APRIL 29, 2008.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI

The Speaker, H-232 The Capitol, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on April 29, 2008, at 5:51 p.m.:

That the Senate passed with an amendment H.R. 493.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

LORRAINE C. MILLER,
Clerk of the House.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF SENATE AMENDMENT TO H.R. 493, GENETIC INFORMATION NON-DISCRIMINATION ACT OF 2008

Ms. SLAUGHTER, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 110-612) on the resolution (H. Res. 1156) providing for consideration of the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 493) to prohibit discrimination on the basis of genetic information with respect to health insurance and employment, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5522, COMBUSTIBLE DUST EXPLOSION AND FIRE PREVENTION ACT OF 2008

Ms. SLAUGHTER, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 110-613) on the resolution (H. Res. 1157) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5522) to require the Secretary of Labor to issue interim and final occupational safety and health standards regarding worker exposure to combustible dust, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 5534

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 5534.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Indiana?

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF INTENTION TO OFFER MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES ON H.R. 2419, FOOD AND ENERGY SECURITY ACT OF 2007

Mr. FLAKE. Madam Speaker, under rule XXII, clause 7(c), I hereby announce my intention to offer a motion to instruct on H.R. 2419.

The form of the motion is as follows:

Mr. Flake moves that the managers on the part of the House at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the Senate amendment to the bill H.R. 2419 (an Act to provide for the continuation of agricultural programs through fiscal year 2012) be instructed to agree to the provisions contained in section 1703(b)(2) of the Senate amendment (relating to a \$40,000 limitation on direct payments).

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H. Res. 1079, by the yeas and nays;
H.R. 4332, by the yeas and nays;
S. 2739, by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

FINANCIAL LITERACY MONTH 2008

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1079, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1079.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 402, nays 2, not voting 27, as follows:

[Roll No. 224]

YEAS—402

Abercrombie	Carson	Fossella
Ackerman	Carter	Foster
Aderholt	Castle	Fox
Akin	Castor	Frank (MA)
Alexander	Chabot	Franks (AZ)
Allen	Chandler	Frelinghuysen
Altmire	Clarke	Galleghy
Arcuri	Clay	Garrett (NJ)
Baca	Cleaver	Gerlach
Bachmann	Clyburn	Giffords
Bachus	Coble	Gilchrest
Baird	Cohen	Gillibrand
Baldwin	Cole (OK)	Gingrey
Barrett (SC)	Conaway	Gohmert
Barrow	Conyers	Gonzalez
Bartlett (MD)	Cooper	Goode
Barton (TX)	Costa	Goodlatte
Bean	Costello	Gordon
Berkley	Courtney	Graves
Berman	Cramer	Green, Al
Berry	Crenshaw	Green, Gene
Biggart	Crowley	Grijalva
Bilbray	Cubin	Hall (NY)
Bilirakis	Cuellar	Hall (TX)
Bishop (GA)	Culberson	Hare
Bishop (NY)	Cummings	Harman
Bishop (UT)	Davis (AL)	Hastings (FL)
Blackburn	Davis (CA)	Hastings (WA)
Blumenauer	Davis (IL)	Hayes
Boehner	Davis (KY)	Heller
Bonner	Davis, David	Hensarling
Bono Mack	Davis, Lincoln	Herger
Boozman	Davis, Tom	Herseth Sandlin
Boren	Deal (GA)	Hill
Boswell	DeFazio	Hinche
Boucher	Delahunt	Hinojosa
Boustany	DeLauro	Hirono
Boyd (FL)	Dent	Hobson
Boyda (KS)	Diaz-Balart, L.	Hodes
Brady (PA)	Diaz-Balart, M.	Hoekstra
Brady (TX)	Dicks	Holden
Brown (GA)	Dingell	Holt
Brown (SC)	Donnelly	Honda
Brown, Corrine	Doolittle	Hooley
Brown-Waite,	Doyle	Hoyer
Ginny	Dreier	Hunter
Buchanan	Duncan	Inglis (SC)
Burgess	Edwards	Inslee
Burton (IN)	Ehlers	Israel
Butterfield	Ellison	Issa
Buyer	Ellsworth	Jackson (IL)
Calvert	Emanuel	Jackson-Lee
Camp	Emerson	(TX)
Campbell (CA)	English (PA)	Jefferson
Cannon	Eshoo	Johnson (GA)
Cantor	Etheridge	Johnson (IL)
Capito	Everett	Johnson, E. B.
Capps	Farr	Johnson, Sam
Capuano	Fattah	Jones (NC)
Cardoza	Ferguson	Jones (OH)
Carnahan	Filner	Jordan
Carney	Fortenberry	Kagen

Kanjorski
Keller
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Klein (FL)
Kline (MN)
Knollenberg
Kucinich
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Lamborn
Lampson
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lee
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loeb sack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel
E.
Lynch
Mack
Mahoney (FL)
Maloney (NY)
Manzullo
Marchant
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCauley (TX)
McCollum (MN)
McCotter
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McHugh
McIntyre
McKeon
McMorris
McNerney
McNulty
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Mitchell

Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy, Patrick
Murphy, Tim
Murtha
Musgrave
Myrick
Nadler
Napolitano
Neugebauer
Nunes
Oberstar
Obey
Oliver
Ortiz
Pallone
Pastor
Payne
Pearce
Pence
Perlmutter
Peterson (MN)
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Poe
Pomeroy
Porter
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Radanovich
Rahall
Ramstad
Rangel
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reyes
Richardson
Rodriguez
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salazar
Sali
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Saxton
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schmidt
Schwartz
Scott (GA)

Scott (VA)
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sestak
Shadegg
Shays
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Souder
Space
Speier
Spratt
Stark
Stearns
Stupak
Sullivan
Sutton
Tancredo
Tanner
Tauscher
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Tierney
Towns
Tsongas
Turner
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walberg
Walden (OR)
Walsh (NY)
Walz (MN)
Wamp
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Welch (VT)
Weller
Westmoreland
Wexler
Whitfield (KY)
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (OH)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman (VA)
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn
Yarmuth
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NAYS—2

Flake

Paul

NOT VOTING—27

Andrews
Becerra
Blunt
Braley (IA)
DeGette
Doggett
Drake
Engel
Fallin

Feeney
Forbes
Granger
Gutierrez
Higgins
Hulshof
Kaptur
McCrery
Neal (MA)

Pascarell
Rohrabacher
Rush
Shuler
Solis
Taylor
Waxman
Weiner
Weldon (FL)

□ 1858

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:
Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, on roll-call No. 224, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

FINANCIAL CONSUMER HOTLINE
ACT OF 2007

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4332, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4332.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 408, nays 1, not voting 22, as follows:

[Roll No. 225]

YEAS—408

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Allen
Altmire
Arcuri
Baca
Bachmann
Bachus
Baird
Baldwin
Barrett (SC)
Barrow
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Biggert
Bilbray
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Boehner
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boozman
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boustany
Boyd (FL)
Boyda (KS)
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Broun (GA)
Brown (SC)
Brown, Corrine
Brown-Waite,
Ginny
Buchanan
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Buyer
Calvert
Camp (MI)
Campbell (CA)
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carson
Carter
Castle

Castor
Chabot
Chandler
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Cohen
Cole (OK)
Conaway
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Cramer
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cubin
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis (KY)
Davis, David
Davis, Lincoln
Deal (GA)
DeFazio
DeLauro
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Dingell
Donnelly
Doolittle
Doyle
Dreier
Duncan
Edwards
Ehlers
Ellison
Ellsworth
Emanuel
Emerson
Engel
English (PA)
Eshoo
Etheridge
Everett
Fallin
Farr
Fattah
Feeney
Ferguson
Filner
Flake
Fortenberry
Fossella
Foster
Foxy
Frank (MA)

Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Giffords
Gilchrest
Gillibrand
Gingrey
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goode
Goodlatte
Gordon
Graves
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Hall (NY)
Hall (TX)
Hare
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Herseth Sandlin
Hill
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hobson
Hodes
Hoekstra
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Hoyer
Hunter
Inglis (SC)
Inslee
Israel
Issa
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee
(TX)
Jefferson
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Jones (OH)
Jordan
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Keller
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind
King (IA)

King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Klein (FL)
Kline (MN)
Knollenberg
Kucinich
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Lamborn
Lampson
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lee
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lewis (KY)
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loeb sack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel
E.
Lynch
Mack
Mahoney (FL)
Maloney (NY)
Manzullo
Marchant
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCauley (TX)
McCollum (MN)
McCotter
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McHugh
McIntyre
McKeon
McMorris
McNulty
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Mitchell

Murphy, Patrick
Murphy, Tim
Murtha
Musgrave
Myrick
Nadler
Napolitano
Neugebauer
Nunes
Oberstar
Obey
Oliver
Ortiz
Pallone
Pastor
Payne
Pearce
Pence
Perlmutter
Peterson (MN)
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Poe
Pomeroy
Porter
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Radanovich
Rahall
Ramstad
Rangel
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reyes
Reynolds
Richardson
Rodriguez
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salazar
Sali
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Saxton
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schmidt
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions

Sestak
Shadegg
Shays
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Souder
Space
Speier
Spratt
Stark
Stearns
Stupak
Sullivan
Sutton
Tancredo
Tanner
Tauscher
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Tierney
Towns
Tsongas
Turner
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walberg
Walden (OR)
Walsh (NY)
Walz (MN)
Wamp
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Welch (VT)
Weller
Westmoreland
Wexler
Whitfield (KY)
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (OH)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman (VA)
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn
Yarmuth
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NAYS—1

Paul

NOT VOTING—22

Andrews
Billirakis
Blunt
Davis, Tom
DeGette
Doggett
Drake
Forbes

Granger
Gutierrez
Higgins
Hulshof
Linder
McCrery
Neal (MA)
Pascarell

Rohrabacher
Rush
Shuler
Solis
Taylor
Weldon (FL)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). Members are reminded there are 2 minutes remaining in this vote.

□ 1909

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONSOLIDATED NATURAL RESOURCES ACT OF 2008

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 2739, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 2739.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 291, nays 117, not voting 23, as follows:

[Roll No. 226]

YEAS—291

Abercrombie	Dicks	King (NY)
Ackerman	Dingell	Kirk
Allen	Donnelly	Klein (FL)
Altmire	Doolittle	Knollenberg
Arcuri	Doyle	Kucinich
Baca	Edwards	Kuhl (NY)
Baird	Ehlers	LaHood
Baldwin	Ellison	Lampson
Barrett (SC)	Ellsworth	Langevin
Barrow	Emanuel	Larsen (WA)
Bean	Emerson	Larson (CT)
Becerra	Engel	Latham
Berkley	English (PA)	LaTourette
Berman	Eshoo	Lee
Berry	Etheridge	Levin
Biggert	Farr	Lewis (CA)
Bilirakis	Fattah	Lewis (GA)
Bishop (GA)	Ferguson	Lipinski
Bishop (NY)	Filner	LoBiondo
Blumenauer	Fortenberry	Loeb
Bono Mack	Foster	Lofgren, Zoe
Boren	Frank (MA)	Lowe
Boswell	Frelinghuysen	Lynch
Boucher	Gerlach	Mahoney (FL)
Boyd (FL)	Giffords	Maloney (NY)
Boyd (KS)	Gilchrest	Manzullo
Brady (PA)	Gillibrand	Markey
Braley (IA)	Gohmert	Marshall
Brown, Corrine	Gonzalez	Matheson
Brown-Waite,	Gordon	Matsui
Ginny	Green, Al	McCarthy (NY)
Buchanan	Green, Gene	McCollum (MN)
Butterfield	Grijalva	McDermott
Calvert	Hall (NY)	McGovern
Capito	Hare	McHugh
Capps	Harman	McIntyre
Capuano	Hastings (FL)	McNerney
Cardoza	Heller	McNulty
Carnahan	Hereth Sandlin	Meek (FL)
Carney	Hill	Meeks (NY)
Carson	Hinchey	Melancon
Castle	Hinojosa	Michaud
Castor	Hirono	Miller (NC)
Chandler	Hobson	Miller, George
Clarke	Hodes	Mitchell
Clay	Holden	Mollohan
Clyburn	Holt	Moore (WI)
Cohen	Honda	Moran (VA)
Conyers	Hooley	Murphy (CT)
Cooper	Hoyer	Murphy, Patrick
Costa	Inslee	Murphy, Tim
Costello	Israel	Murtha
Courtney	Jackson (IL)	Musgrave
Cramer	Jackson-Lee	Nadler
Crowley	(TX)	Napolitano
Cuellar	Jefferson	Neal (MA)
Cummings	Johnson (GA)	Oberstar
Davis (AL)	Johnson (IL)	Obey
Davis (CA)	Johnson, E. B.	Olver
Davis (IL)	Jones (OH)	Ortiz
Davis, Lincoln	Kagen	Pallone
DeFazio	Kanjorski	Pastor
Delahunt	Kaptur	Payne
DeLauro	Kennedy	Perlmuter
Dent	Kildee	Peterson (MN)
Diaz-Balart, L.	Kilpatrick	Platts
Diaz-Balart, M.	Kind	Pomeroy

Porter	Serrano
Price (NC)	Sestak
Pryce (OH)	Shays
Radanovich	Shea-Porter
Rahall	Sherman
Ramstad	Shuster
Rangel	Simpson
Regula	Sires
Rehberg	Skellton
Reichert	Slaughter
Renzi	Smith (NE)
Reyes	Smith (NJ)
Richardson	Smith (WA)
Rodriguez	Snyder
Ros-Lehtinen	Space
Ross	Speier
Rothman	Spratt
Roybal-Allard	Stark
Ruppersberger	Stupak
Ryan (OH)	Sullivan
Salazar	Sutton
Sali	Tanner
Sánchez, Linda	Tauscher
T.	Terry
Sanchez, Loretta	Thompson (CA)
Sarbanes	Thompson (MS)
Saxton	Tiahrt
Schakowsky	Tiberi
Schiff	Tierney
Schwartz	Towns
Scott (GA)	Tsongas
Scott (VA)	Turner

Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walden (OR)
Walsh (NY)
Walz (MN)
Wamp
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Welch (VT)
Weller
Wexler
Whitfield (KY)
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (OH)
Wittman (VA)
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn
Yarmuth
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NAYS—117

Aderholt	Fossella	Mica
Akin	Fox	Miller (FL)
Alexander	Franks (AZ)	Miller (MI)
Bachmann	Gallagher	Miller, Gary
Bachus	Garrett (NJ)	Moran (KS)
Bartlett (MD)	Gingrey	Myrick
Barton (TX)	Goode	Neugebauer
Bilbray	Goodlatte	Nunes
Bishop (UT)	Graves	Paul
Boehner	Hall (TX)	Pearce
Bonner	Hastings (WA)	Pence
Boozman	Hayes	Peterson (PA)
Boustany	Hensarling	Petri
Brady (TX)	Herger	Pickering
Broun (GA)	Hoekstra	Pitts
Brown (SC)	Hunter	Poe
Burgess	Inglis (SC)	Price (GA)
Burton (IN)	Issa	Putnam
Buyer	Johnson, Sam	Reynolds
Camp (MI)	Jones (NC)	Rogers (AL)
Campbell (CA)	Jordan	Rogers (KY)
Cannon	Keller	Rogers (MI)
Cantor	King (IA)	Roskam
Carter	Kingston	Royce
Chabot	Kline (MN)	Ryan (WI)
Coble	Lamborn	Schmidt
Cole (OK)	Latta	Sensenbrenner
Conaway	Lewis (KY)	Sessions
Crenshaw	Lucas	Shadegg
Cubin	Lungren, Daniel	Shimkus
Culberson	E.	Smith (TX)
Davis (KY)	Mack	Souder
Davis, David	Marchant	Stearns
Deal (GA)	McCarthy (CA)	Tancredo
Dreier	McCaul (TX)	Thornberry
Duncan	McCotter	Upton
Everett	McHenry	Walberg
Fallin	McKeon	Westmoreland
Feeney	McMorris	Wilson (SC)
Flake	Rodgers	

NOT VOTING—23

Andrews	Forbes	Pascarell
Blackburn	Granger	Rohrabacher
Blunt	Gutierrez	Rush
Cleaver	Higgins	Shuler
Davis, Tom	Hulshof	Solis
DeGette	Linder	Taylor
Doggett	McCrery	Weldon (FL)
Drake	Moore (KS)	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. There are 2 minutes remaining in this vote.

□ 1918

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota and Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania changed their vote from “no” to “aye.”

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the Senate bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF INTENTION TO OFFER MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES ON H.R. 2419, FOOD AND ENERGY SECURITY ACT OF 2007

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, pursuant to clause 7(c) of rule XXII, I hereby give notice of my intention to offer a motion to instruct conferees on H.R. 2419, the Food and Energy Security Act.

The form of the motion is as follows:

Mr. Ryan of Wisconsin moves that the managers on the part of the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the Senate amendment to the bill H.R. 2419 be instructed, within the scope of the conference, to use the most recent baseline estimates supplied by the Congressional Budget Office when evaluating the costs of the provisions of the report.

TRIBUTE TO DON MYERS

(Mr. SPACE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great man that worked tirelessly to improve the way of life of many Ohioans.

Don Myers was an extraordinary Executive Director of the Ohio Mid-Eastern Governments Association Development District, a position that is at the heart of economic development for one of the most underserved regions of Ohio. During his tenure, the organization helped secure over \$600 million in development and infrastructure improvement for the region. He was the embodiment of the meaning of “community.”

I knew Don Myers well. He was a kind gentleman who carried himself with a great degree of grace, and he will be missed very much by the people in Ohio, his family, his friends and his neighbors.

HONORING THE CITY OF CORAL SPRINGS, FLORIDA

(Mr. KLEIN of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the City of Coral Springs, Florida, on receiving the 2007 Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award, the Nation's highest presidential honor for excellence and organizational performance.

In 1993, city management implemented a Total Quality Management Program designed to overhaul operations and service delivery by becoming more customer-focused and quality-oriented. Today, Coral Springs was the first city to receive the award.

The National Institute of Standards and Technology said of the City of

Coral Springs that it “demonstrates a consistently high level of financial performance” and that its key strategic advantage is the “city’s effectiveness of running like a business.”

The city’s efforts to improve public safety have resulted in the city’s crime rate decreasing by nearly half over the last 10 years, the lowest crime rate in the State.

I rise to congratulate the City of Coral Springs, its citizens and its leadership for striving for the best and inspiring others to do the same.

SAVING STARVING CHILDREN AROUND THE WORLD

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today as the Chair of the Congressional Children’s Caucus to emphasize the crisis in the lack of food for those around the world. As we have seen the rising food costs, we in America are suffering, but the rest of the world is in a crisis.

I believe it is imperative as we move into our appropriations process that we emphasize the importance of utilizing the food stock here in the United States to provide service and support around the world, and I believe it is even more important to focus on the impact on children.

I will convene a briefing that will draw upon the insight of food advocates from around the Nation to focus on how we can prioritize children in developing nations being provided foodstuffs and receiving priority over adults, for a malnourished child dies, a malnourished child has disease.

We are in a crisis. It is time for us to act to save the children.

THANK YOU TO THE 218TH

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, soldiers of the 218th Brigade Combat Team of the South Carolina Army National Guard, under the leadership of Brigadier General Bob Livingston, are successfully returning to South Carolina. For the past year they have been in Afghanistan as part of Task Force Phoenix working to build the Afghan military and police.

As a 28-year veteran of the 218th, I know firsthand of their competence and patriotism. These citizen soldiers have built one Afghan military battalion to be fully independent with 13 additional battalions to be operational by this summer. After overhauling the Afghani police forces to eliminate corruption, the 218th helped build an Afghan police force of 79,000.

Additionally, the 218th provided humanitarian relief, including the construction of schools, hospitals and

roads. They conducted 200 medical assistance missions and delivered 300 tons of food and supplies to the 37,000 Afghans.

At this time, we also remember the fallen. Staff Sergeant James D. Bullard, Sergeant Shawn F. Hill and Sergeant Edward O. Philpot lost their lives during the year-long deployment. These patriots gave the ultimate sacrifice in defense of American families by defeating terrorists overseas. Our thoughts and prayers are with their families.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th.

In addition to the information provided above, the 218th Brigade Combat Team has had extraordinary success in working alongside the Afghan forces. During the past winter—a time when Taliban forces often regroup—soldiers from the 218th, along with Afghan soldiers, stayed in forwarding operating bases around Afghanistan and took the fight to the Taliban. This action kept the enemy from gathering strength.

Due to the commitment and professionalism of the men and women of the 218th, the Afghan army now has a reenlistment rate of 55 percent—more than double the 20 percent a year ago. The percentage of Afghan soldiers ready for duty has gone up from 55 percent to 85 percent. Their absent without leave percentage has dropped to eight percent, and they have 29,000 recruits that have completed basic training.

The Afghan police continue to grow in size and ability. As a sign of success, this winter the police were able to defend and hold their 364 district centers. This is something they have not been able to accomplish since the beginning of Operation Enduring Freedom in 2001.

I appreciate the above factual information provided by embedded reporter Chuck Crumbo from Kabul, Afghanistan, in The State of Columbia, South Carolina, on April 27, 2008.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on House Resolution 1073 and House Resolution 49.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 18, 2007, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

BRINGING RECONCILIATION TO THE PEOPLE OF IRAQ

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentle-

woman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to announce that Representative CHRIS SHAYS of Connecticut and I have introduced an important bipartisan bill in the House today that can help bring desperately needed reconciliation to the people of Iraq. The bill is called the International Partnership for Reconciliation in Iraq. By the standards of the Federal Government, it is a tiny outfit. But few government agencies have delivered more bang for their buck or done so much with so few people.

The USIP Institute has an impressive track record of conflict management and peace building in the Balkans, the Philippines, Nigeria, the Sudan, Rwanda and other parts of the world, including Iraq.

This bill is vitally important, because, as Ambassador Ryan Crocker has said, “reconciliation is perhaps the most critical challenge that Iraq faces right now.” Our bill would encourage reconciliation by supporting the work of a remarkable but unheralded organization called the United States Institute of Peace.

□ 1930

The Institute was established by Congress 24 years ago today. It has 142 employees and a budget of \$32 million. It has been successful because it is unique. There is no other organization like it. It is a center and a clearinghouse for best practices in preventing and dealing with conflict. Its staff includes many of the world’s top experts in conflict resolution and peacebuilding. These incredibly dedicated experts travel to some of the world’s most violent places to facilitate reconciliation efforts on the ground.

And the Institute is impartial, it is nonideological. Its only axe to grind is peace. That is why USIP has gained the respect and trust in all sides in conflict. In fact, you can say the Institute is one of the world’s top brand names when it comes to making peace.

In Iraq, the Institute has been working to inspire reconciliation at the regional, at the national, and at the community levels. It has been particularly effective in the city of Mahmoudiya, which has been called the Triangle of Death. There, it has worked to bring Sunni and Shiite factions together. Its work has been so effective that the U.S. Army’s provincial reconstruction teams have asked the Institute to help with reconciliation efforts in other parts of Iraq. Not bad for an organization whose annual budget is less than what we spend in Iraq every 3 hours.

There is an excellent article on the Institute’s work, Madam Speaker, in the current issue of the National Journal, and I urge all my colleagues to read it.

The bill that Representative SHAYS and I introduced today would provide assistance to the Institute to do the

following in Iraq: Prevent violent conflict, promote post-conflict stability and development, increase conflict management capacity, promote tolerance and forgiveness, and facilitate regional dialogue.

We believe that the Institute's work will also encourage nations from outside the region to get involved. Reconciliation in Iraq has become something like the weather: Everyone here in Washington talks about it, but no one can really do anything about it. We just sort of sit around and wait for the Iraqi government to meet their reconciliation benchmarks. Then, when they don't, we make speeches.

This bill is an opportunity to do something about reconciliation by supporting an organization that knows how to get the job done. And this bill we can all get behind, because no matter where we stand on the Iraq issue we all support reconciliation.

I am proud to join with Representative SHAYS in asking all of our colleagues in the House on both sides of the aisle to cosponsor this critically important bipartisan bill.

POLICE GONE WILD—MEXICO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, brutal actions of local and state police are going unpunished; and, as the founder of the Victims Right Caucus, I bring this serious matter to the House's attention.

Two years ago, on May 3 and 4, 2006, there was a lawful protest in support of local flower sellers who had been displaced from their business because a new airport was being built. During the protest, law enforcement officers arrested and detained 47 separate women. The police officers didn't read the women their rights; the women were just arrested, locked up, and taken into custody. Then, Madam Speaker, the officers beat and sexually assaulted them. I repeat, they beat and sexually assaulted the 47 women that were arrested. Obviously, lawmen have become outlaws.

One of the 47 women was Barbara Mendez, a 27-year-old student and a child advocate. Barbara went to the protest because she heard a child was killed in the violence between the police and the protesters. As a child advocate, Barbara went to show her support for the child and her community. But after Barbara arrived at the protest, the police beat her and arrested her because she was with the protesters and supposedly blocking a road. Barbara was placed in a police vehicle and forced to take off her clothes. She was then gang raped by the police officers, as other officers watched and cheered on the rapists. Barbara was then locked up in jail for 12 days.

Madam Speaker, this is a case of police gone wild.

Jail doctors then examined Barbara, but it just so happened that they failed

to document her physical injuries or gather any forensic evidence of the rape. This evidence is crucial for any prosecution.

Madam Speaker, rape is a crime that tries to destroy the soul of the victim. And of these 47 women arrested and assaulted, 26 of them later filed complaints with authorities claiming physical, psychological, and sexual abuse during the arrest and detention. But since these assaults occurred, none of the police criminals have been brought to justice. No, not one. And this ought not to be.

Five months after the assaults, a national human rights commission called for criminal investigations into the assaults, but no investigations have occurred.

In February of 2007, the Supreme Court instructed a special judicial commission to investigate the crimes by the police in the arrest of these 47 women.

Then, Barbara Mendez and several other victims filed another complaint with federal authorities, but the federal authorities are sitting on these cases refusing to move forward. Why isn't there any justice for these women?

Next week marks the second year anniversary of these assaults, and yet none of these women have seen a courtroom. Obviously, no justice for these rape victims. Of the 47 women, two are from Spain, one is from Germany, two are from Chile, and the rest are Mexican citizens. But none of them received any justice. Basic human rights is obviously being denied.

Madam Speaker, these assaults did not occur in the United States. They occurred in San Salvador Atenco, Mexico, just 30 miles outside of Mexico City.

This issue is a world human rights issue, and this type of abuse cannot be tolerated and peace officers cannot enjoy impunity. Police officers are supposed to protect the community and keep people safe from harm, not cause harm to people. And, of course, this includes Mexican police officers. These officers must be held accountable. They need to have their day in court. And, if they are guilty, they need to be sent off to the jailhouse.

As we approach Mother's Day in the United States, Madam Speaker, we need to proclaim that mothers and women throughout the world receive the respect and honor due them. That includes justice, because justice is the one thing we should always find, even in Mexico.

And that's just the way it is.

RISING FUEL PRICES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maine (Mr. ALLEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ALLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise to express my disappointment that the administration has done nothing to rein in rising fuel prices.

The past 7 years have brought hardship to anyone in Maine with a vehicle to fill up at the gas station, a furnace to feed, or a livelihood dependent on affordable fuel.

As you can see in this chart, in January 2001 oil traded at \$23 to \$25 per barrel. This week, it topped \$120 per barrel.

In January 2001, #2 heating oil cost Maine families and businesses \$1.55 a gallon. This week, it topped \$3.85.

In January 2001, regular unleaded gasoline cost Maine drivers \$1.55 a gallon. According to the AAA, the going price in Portland this week is \$3.55 a gallon, and rising.

In January 2001, diesel for their rigs cost Maine's independent truckers \$1.53 per gallon. In Bangor this week, it was \$4.33 per gallon.

These past 7 years, the oil companies have padded their bottom lines at the expense of the hardworking people of Maine and across the country. For the past 7 years, everyone in Maine has paid a steep price for the Bush administration's disastrous energy policy and for Big Oil's efforts in Congress to block legislation to stop energy profiteering.

What has the administration done? Nothing. And they will do nothing unless the people's elected representatives push them to action.

That is why I have called upon the Federal Trade Commission, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the Attorney General of the U.S., and the Secretary of Energy to launch an immediate investigation of price fixing, manipulation, rampant speculation, and other unscrupulous behavior in the petroleum markets. Inappropriate and criminal behavior by oil companies, their subsidiaries, agents, or employees must be prosecuted and punished to the full extent of the law.

These outrageous price increases are a cruel blow for Maine families whose incomes are stagnant or shrinking, and whose costs for health insurance, college tuition, and other everyday expenses continue to rise faster than inflation. Fuel prices are an economic catastrophe for Maine farmers, fishermen, and other small business people. For some of Maine's independent truckers, like those I met on the road in Kennebunk when they were coming down here, unbridled fuel costs when coupled with a stagnating economy may very well put them out of business.

As independent truckers are staring down unemployment, oil companies are reaping record profits. However, for one sector of the economy, the last 7 years have been a bonanza.

In 2001, the Big 5 Oil companies posted combined profits of just over \$40 billion. In 2007, their combined profits topped \$123 billion. ExxonMobil's \$41 billion profit last year was more than all of the Big 5 combined in 2001, and

smashed the record for the highest annual profit in history for a U.S. company.

To put that number in perspective, ExxonMobil's profits last year were more than we spent on road construction; they were greater than the amount the VA will spend on health care for our veterans this year. ExxonMobil's profits were larger than the entire budget for the Homeland Security Department in fiscal year 2008. That is profits, not revenues, and those profits come directly from the pockets of our constituents who pay the oil companies' exorbitant prices.

In the House, we passed the Federal Price Gouging Act to give the Federal Trade Commission explicit authority to investigate and punish those who artificially inflate the price of energy, especially those who profit most, those at the top of the chain. The bill has passed the House, but it has stalled in the other body.

It is also time to go after the energy speculators who drive up energy prices through off-market trading. Those trading practices are unseen and unregulated, but they do great damage. I support the Close the Enron Loophole Act, and the Preventing the Unfair Manipulation of Prices Act legislation to hold oil speculators accountable to the same rules that already govern traders who are trading on regulated markets.

It is time now to roll back the \$14 billion in tax breaks and incentives that we gave to Big Oil in the 2005 energy bill. It was a disgrace then, and it is an outrage now. I voted against these tax incentives, tax breaks in 2005, and I am pleased that the House under new leadership has already voted to role them back. But in the other body, Big Oil's friends have maneuvered to block a vote on the rollback bill.

Finally, we need to provide targeted relief to the small businesses that depend on fuel, whether they are heating buildings or driving trucks. We need more leadership in the House and over in the other body and with the administration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BISHOP of Utah addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ENERGY PRICES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WESTMORELAND) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Madam Speaker, I am glad the gentleman who has just left was talking about the energy prices, because that is what I want to talk about, too, the energy prices.

I was elected to Congress 4 years ago, and I came up here and you really

think you are going to be dealing with some smart people. It took all I could muster up just to graduate from high school. I did attend college for 2 years. But I have come up here and I have found out that evidently a lot of people in this body don't understand either business or the economy or economics or something, because I keep hearing about the majority wanting to bring down gas prices, but they want to do it by raising taxes and taxing oil companies.

Now, the gentleman just spoke about getting the President's help. Well, I think he has tried to help. I think he has put together some good proposals, but they don't want to do any drilling.

On April 24, 2006, Speaker PELOSI put out a thing, they were trying to get into the majority, and it said: "Democrats have a commonsense plan to help bring down skyrocketing gas prices." And at the time, gas was probably \$2 a gallon and, as the gentleman stated a while ago, it is about \$3.80 now. Oil was probably \$60 a barrel, and it is about \$120 a barrel now. But you passed H.R. 6. That was one of the first 100 Hours, one of these great proposals, the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007.

Well, we did a little research. In that bill, which is over 300 pages, "crude oil" is mentioned five times. Over 300 pages, "crude oil" is mentioned just five times.

□ 1945

"Gasoline" is mentioned 12 times in over 300 pages.

"Exploratory drilling" is mentioned twice.

"Offshore drilling" is mentioned, none.

"Domestic drilling" is mentioned, none.

"Domestic oil" is mentioned, none.

"Domestic gas," zero mention.

"Domestic fuel," zero mention.

"Domestic petroleum," zero.

"Gas price" or "gas prices," zero.

The word "commonsense," zero.

What is mentioned is "greenhouse," 103 times.

"Green building," 101 times.

"Ecosystem," 24 times.

"Climate change," 18 times.

One of their favorite words "regulation," 98 times.

"Environmental," 160 times.

"Geothermal," 94 times.

"Renewable," 333 times.

The word "pool" because, Madam Speaker, there was the Swimming Pool Safety Act attached to the Energy Independence and Security Act. Here is the thing I found interesting. The word "pool" was mentioned 47 times; or nine times more than crude oil and four times more than the word "gasoline."

"Lamp" or "light bulb" is mentioned 350 times; 350 times they talk about lamps or light bulbs.

So get the picture here. The Democratic plan for lowering gas prices is not drilling, it is not using domestic production, it is becoming more reliant

on foreign oil; and it is going to do it through greenhouse, green building, regulation, geothermal, swimming pool safety, and light bulbs.

Now I have a hard time when I go home to the people of the Third Congressional District explaining to them that that's our plan for energy independence. And I don't know if I am the only one that is having the problem of convincing my constituents that this is what Congress is doing to lower gas prices.

Now just another side note here. Tonight we passed Senate bill 2739, Consolidated Natural Resource Act of 2008, but I see my time has expired.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. SPACE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SPACE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. JONES of North Carolina addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. WELLER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. WELLER of Illinois addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. FORBES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. FORBES addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ENERGY AND OUR CONSTITUTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT) is recognized for

60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I come here tonight, as we do every month or so, to begin another session of the Constitution hour. Members of the Congressional Constitution Caucus basically use these opportunities to emphasize to our colleagues and people across the Nation the necessity of ensuring that our government is operating under the intent of our Founding Fathers. Specifically, we look at the 10th amendment which affirms that the authority over most domestic issues belongs to the States, either directly or through their political subdivisions, and to the people therefore themselves. Actually, the exact wording of it is that all powers not specifically delegated to the United States Government is retained by the people or the States respectively.

So we come to the floor as we do every month or so to bring this point home, to educate the Members of Congress, and to have a discussion on the constitutional merits of what we are debating here in the week before and after. In a little while we will look at a piece of pending legislation, a sunset bill, as it were. But before I do that, I would like to yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WESTMORELAND).

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Thank you, Mr. GARRETT. This has something to do with the Constitution, something to do with what the intent of our Founding Fathers was. I don't think that they had in mind Senate bill 2739 which just passed the House with 117 dissenting votes and they must have had right at 300 who voted for it. It was an omnibus bill that included 61 distinct pieces of legislation, 61, at a cost of \$380 million. Sixty-one bills rolled into one, \$380 million, 20 minutes debate, voted under suspension.

That has got to make Americans proud, Madam Speaker. It has got to make our Founding Fathers roll over in their graves.

But the part that really bothered me the most, because I talked earlier about the price of gas and what the majority party's commonsense plan to lower those gas prices was. And I look at this bill, Senate bill 2739 permanently blocks exploration for natural energy resources on millions of acres of Federal land at a time when this country and our entire economy is suffering as a result of these record high energy prices. But yet we permanently block exploration of natural gas.

Also, you know, we only own 670 million acres. You know, Congressman GARRETT, I don't know what the Founding Fathers had in mind with the Constitution, but I think if they had really figured that the Federal Government would own 670 million acres, they may have put that in there somewhere.

One thing they did put in the Constitution was about private property rights. The natural heritage area designations included in this bill restrict,

and I think the Constitution talks about this somewhere, restricts how residential and commercial property owners utilize their private property without any notice or warning.

It also kicked out and stripped out some amendments put in by the House that would have protected the second amendment, and I believe that may be in the Constitution, it is talked about somewhere, the second amendment. So the right to bear arms and property rights in these natural heritage areas were stripped out of this bill.

What breaks my heart even more is that the minority party, who has been standing up here complaining about our energy cost, all we had to get was about 28 more votes and this bill would have had to come under regular order where we could have stood on this floor in front of the American people, Madam Speaker, and debated this bill. But we could not muster 145 votes out of the 199 Members that we have in the Republican conference. That's embarrassing to me. That is just as hard for me to understand and to go home and try to explain to my constituents when I am standing up here night after night arguing about oil and gas prices and the price of energy and what little pitiful bit the majority is doing when my party won't support doing something to make some real change in what we are paying at the pump.

Mr. GARRETT, I want to thank you for doing this special order on the Constitution, and I hope that you will bring up the private property rights, the second amendment, the fact that we can pass legislation \$380 million worth, 61 different bills rolled into one under suspension with 20 minutes of debate.

Like I said, Madam Speaker, I know that makes America proud.

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. I thank the gentleman for raising these points. He takes the lead from the gentleman from Maine from the other side of the aisle who had just previously done 5 minutes talking about the energy situation. Let me follow up along those lines before we talk about the sunset bill we want to talk about tonight.

I agree with the gentleman from Georgia that our Founding Fathers would be rolling their eyes and turning over to the proverbial grave if they were ever to look to see the size and scope and depth of regulation of the Federal Government, a far cry from what the Founders ever intended as the appropriate role of government in people's lives.

They did, as the gentleman from Georgia said, put a significant weight and value to that of private property rights, and they did believe that private property was just that, something to be held by the private citizen and not by the government, whether it is the State or Federal, but specifically here on the Federal level.

The gentleman from Maine was making the observation that something

needs to be done with regard to the fact that our citizens back home, our constituents back home are aggrieved by the high price of oil, whether it is the gasoline for your car or for the diesel for your truck, or home heating fuel if you are in the northern States such as myself. The gentleman from the other side of the aisle on the majority party would suggest that the answer comes from the Federal Government.

I would suggest that the answer, as far as the Founding Fathers would believe, the answer comes from the private sector, would that the private sector have a free hand and free rein in order to address the problem.

But as we stand here right now, 85 percent of our natural resources in this area of energy offshore of this country are tied up, locked up, if you will, unobtainable for all of us to use as was intended; 85 percent locked up, unavailable for us to be going to get, either oil or natural gas. So we are paying the price for that.

So when the gentleman from Maine from the majority party says that the administration is at fault here, I had to sit and scratch my head and try to remember who is running this House, and which party is running the Senate as well. And of course we know the answer, it is the Democrat Party.

This is not a partisan issue I'm raising here. I think everyone from this side of the aisle would like to extend a hand to the other side of the aisle to try to work together and come to a resolution on this issue.

But if the way that they take is to point blame and blame the President and the Bush administration and the like, that's not going to bring us to closure. That is not going to bring us to a solution satisfactory to the American public.

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We need to work together on this.

Likewise, we are not going to get to that solution if all we have is empty promises. I remember all too well a little over 2 years ago, in the 2006 elections, when the, then they were the minority party, but the Democrat Party was saying that they had the solution. They had the answer to the oil problem and the oil crisis and the price of gas at the pump, and if they were elected, they said, and they were put into the majority power, they would be able to give us that solution and that plan and bring us to a better day.

And if you think back to where it was and what they were saying was so terrible at that time, well, gas at that time was like \$1.90 or something like that. It was just approaching, it hadn't quite gone over \$2 a gallon at the pump. But they said elect them and they'd have a solution.

Well, here it is in April, 16 months after they've been in office, and we are still waiting for that solution. We are still waiting for that answer to come down the road, to be handed to us so

that we can all get behind it in a bipartisan manner and answer that the challenge that the American public gave to us, how can we solve this problem. Because the American public, I think, would be more akin and in tune with what the founders would say.

The American public would say, to solve this problem you must release the abilities and the entrepreneurial spirit and the great ideas of the business person and the landowner and the private property owner and those who own renewable and other energy sources to be able to develop those and allow them to come into the marketplace.

But that is not happening yet, so long as the other side of the aisle refuses to give us whatever their solution or their plan is that they told us about some time ago, nor is that about to come about so long as the other side of the aisle simply comes to the floor and casts aspersions on the Bush administration or whoever's in the White House at the time and says it's all somebody else's fault, rather than really grappling with the issue and trying to come to a solution to it.

There are solutions to it. There are free market principles. They are principles that our founding fathers would have enjoyed and appreciated and applauded as they crafted the U.S. Constitution, and that's what we should be embracing today, so that we can go home to our constituents, so the gentleman from Georgia, who said he's somewhat embarrassed to go back to his constituents and say this is what is happening now in Congress as Congress fails to deliver on its promises.

We should be able to deliver, if not on our promises, then on the promises on the other side of the aisle and to address this solution in a bipartisan manner and get the job done in the manner that their founders would have intended.

Now, I believe that the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) had another point on a different issue. The gentleman, I am pleased, has just joined us, from Utah. And before we get to the topic that we came here tonight, which was to discuss the issue of the Brady bill, which is the bill dealing with the Sunset Commission and how the Constitution ties into that topic and why the founding fathers would applaud the ideas that Mr. BRADY has given us as far as addressing the over-running government that we have, the gentleman from Utah has joined us, Mr. BISHOP, to fill us in on the issue dealing with NASA.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Thank you, Madam Speaker. And I appreciate the gentleman from New Jersey in yielding a few moments so we can talk about another issue of significance, I think, right now.

It was in the year 2004 that the President outlined our Nation's vision for space exploration; and he gave three goals:

Number 1, to complete the international space station by 2010, 2, to

conduct the first manned mission of a new vehicle for astronauts by 2014; and Number 3, to return a man to the moon by 2020.

Now, these goals won bipartisan approval by Congress in the 2005 NASA Authorization Act, and we gave clear directions to NASA to administer this act. In it, the administrator was directed to develop a human presence on the moon, promote exploration, science and commerce, United States presence in space, and to create a stepping stone to future exploration of Mars and other destinations.

It further codified more specific requirements to use personnel and assets of the current space shuttle program in developing a new crew vehicle and two new launch vehicles.

Now, after the old space shuttle, the original one here has fulfilled its mission to complete the international space station, it will retire in the year 2010 and, by law, must be replaced no later than 2014 by a new vehicle, this one at the top, which is called Orion, which will take humans to the space station, to the moon, to Mars and to beyond.

This vision is a bulwark of our Nation's space future for the decades to come. You see, the space shuttle will have been in service for 30 years by the time it's retired, and we can expect as much or more from these new systems.

NASA Administrator, Michael Griffin, has translated these objectives into a coherent program for further exploration in the solar systems. Its name is Project Constellation, and it will include Orion, and be powered by the most effective, reliable and safe launch vehicles to carry our crew into orbit or lift supplies needed for space exploration; and those two new rockets will be called Ares I and Ares V.

Now, Orion will give the United States the best capability to transport astronauts to destinations outside of the Earth's orbit and, at the same time, serve the international space station. The development of the Ares I rocket will boost Orion into orbit, and it has made tremendous progress. In fact, the first unmanned prototype test launch of Ares I is in April of this year.

Ares I is at least a factor of 10 times safer, and will lift crews into space at a cost significantly lower than the current space shuttle. In fact, Ares I will be reliable and cost effective enough to be used for commercial purposes, delivering on NASA's promise to energize space activities in the commercial sector.

Ares V will be the largest rocket ever produced, exceeding even the carrying capacity of the old Saturn V rocket. Now, the Ares V will only be used to take cargo into space. But the combined capabilities of the Ares I and Ares V rockets will support the space station, moon and Mars exploration, large scientific and commercial payloads and journeys to destinations in our solar system that Kirk, Pickard, Spock and the guy on Reading Rainbow only dreamed of.

Furthermore, these rockets will reassert our leadership in exploration of space for decades to come, a leadership that is currently being challenged by other countries.

NASA's space exploration vision is vital to this Nation's continued global leadership in space and technology. It will inspire a new generation to become physicists, chemists, geologists, mathematicians who will pursue careers in fields critical to our continued economic wellbeing and world leadership.

Now, we often bemoan the lack of interest in science and math, and dream up all sorts of incentives here in Congress that will fail because kids really don't want a Federal bribe. They want to be challenged and inspired. And just like the space race of the 1950s and the 1960s motivated a whole generation of students to pursue education in science and technology, NASA's new exploration plans can inspire a sense of adventure and pride in today's kids.

The Mercury, Gemini and Apollo programs provided this kind of dramatic motivation from grade school to college graduates. So within a few years we were turning out growing numbers of highly skilled engineers and scientists as America's space program offered challenging jobs in pursuit of landing humans on the moon.

It is not coincidentally, a coincidence at all that scientific and engineering expertise lost its momentum immediately after the successful Apollo program was prematurely ended and our space commitment was de-emphasized. With no greater challenges in human space flight on the horizon, the historic excitement to earn science and engineering degrees simply withered.

Improving the quality of education is as simple as firing the imagination of a child. The dream of working on the moon, traveling to Mars, exploring the other planets will spark that drive. An inspirational vision such as space exploration can provide that necessary spark. We need that inspiration, not only to compete in space, but to continue to compete successfully here on earth. Without this motivation, it simply won't happen.

While JFK's challenge was to send a man to the moon and return him safely to the earth, and that was indeed an historic accomplishment, the most important legacy of Apollo is that it inspired a generation to do great things. It's more important now than ever that we do great things. Space exploration will motivate the next generation to accomplish feats that we can only imagine today, and will secure America's position as a world leader.

The NASA administrator, Michael Griffin, put it in the proper perspective when he said, "We go not for gold or silver, but for knowledge and experience, and for the expansion of technology. And that occurs when we explore. These are the reasons we do these things, and they are part of what makes us human."

Previous space exploration has brought tangible benefits that have improved our lives in innumerable ways. When we say space spin-off products, most people think of Tang and maybe Velcro. But we watch the weather reports on television every night and don't recognize this would not be possible without the space program. Or we make a phone call and don't consider that the connection may be via a communication satellite. GPS navigation satellites, originally developed for the military, are now used 95 percent of the time for civilian application. And many of these benefits are so taken for granted that we now consider them intangible benefits.

There are many tangible benefits from the space program. The 2007 "Space Report" estimated that last year's impact on the economy from space was \$220 billion, with 60 percent of that figure coming from commercial goods and services, not NASA nor the Pentagon. In fact, a common misperception about space is that this money is spent in space, when in reality, these funds are spent right here on earth in the most high tech jobs in the world.

Another common misconception is the size of NASA's budget. Opinion surveys will show that Americans think NASA's budget is 10 to 20 percent of Federal spending. In reality, NASA's budget is .6 percent of the Federal budget. The returns on this investment are priceless.

The President, Congress and NASA got it right 3 years ago. A clear space exploration strategy now exists in the form of the Constellation program being executed by a team led by an Administrator Michael Griffin, who clearly understands not only the technical issues but, indeed, the delicate balance between performance, risk and cost. In short, Griffin gets it.

Implementing the space exploration program will not be an easy task, but it will be worth the journey. Retiring the space shuttle in 2010 and replacing it with Orion no later than 2014 is essential. We have to go forward without delay with this vision as it now stands. And let us not hinder and its dedicated partners from achieving it for all of us.

In 2010 the international space station will be complete and the space shuttle program will draw to a close. But the future will belong to Project Constellation. Constellation will give us new space vehicles. It will take us to the space station, the moon, onward to Mars. The names of Orion and Ares will become as familiar to the world as Mercury, Gemini, Apollo and the space shuttle have been.

Thank you for your patience, Madam Speaker. Appreciate the gentleman from New Jersey for giving me these few minutes to talk about an essential program that we have to push in the future. And I will yield back as we go on to the next topic of this discussion.

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. I thank the gentleman from Utah. And

the gentleman makes an interesting point when he says to educate takes only to excite the mind and the imaginations and, of course, that is what happened some 200-plus years ago in this country when our founding fathers came to this land and excited the imagination that a new form of government never conceived by any human in any portion of the world ever before, and that was, we've seen today, in the U.S. Constitution.

You know, that document today, for a lot of people is just a historical document and nothing more than that. And to many citizens the Federal Government is nothing more than a problem solving institution of government.

However, the founding fathers delegated only a few specific powers to us here in Washington, to the House and the Senate and the White House, few specific powers, and they are in enumerated in the Constitution. The remaining political powers were reserved for the States and the local governments and the people specifically.

So tonight, I'm joined by my colleagues, Mr. BISHOP who will speak again in a few moments, and Mr. BRADY from Texas who'll try to focus on one aspect of trying to revert the government to what the founders intended in the first place by focusing on the inefficiencies and the waste that occurs when the Federal Government oversteps its bounds that were set forth in the Constitution.

And we come here not simply to complain about the situation. No, and that's why I'm pleased that I'm joined by Mr. BRADY, because Mr. BRADY comes here with a solution to the problem as well, and he does so in the form of the Federal Sunset Act, which would help our country, in essence, return to the limits originally intended by our founding fathers.

So with that I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BRADY).

Mr. BRADY of Texas. I appreciate the gentleman from Michigan's leadership and keeping the focus of Congress on the Constitution, what roles we play of a limited government.

I don't know if you can remember what you were doing last Wednesday, but I do. Last Wednesday is what we call Tax Freedom Day. It's the first day of the year that you and I start working for ourselves and our families. From New Year's Day up to last Wednesday, April 23, we were working just to pay taxes to our State, local and Federal Government.

If you think about what an overtaxed Nation we are, think about your day. You wake up in the morning, grab a shower, you pay the water tax. You stop and grab a cup of coffee, you pay a sales tax. And take your car down to work, you pay gas taxes. At work you pay two taxes, an income tax and a payroll tax. You come home at the end of the day, you open the door, turn on the light, pay electricity tax, turn on the television, pay a cable tax, use

your phone and pay a telephone tax, kiss your spouse good night and pay a marriage penalty tax.

□ 2015

And on and on and on. Every day the rest of your life. And then when you die, you pay a death tax. No wonder it is so hard for families to make ends meet in America these days especially with the prices being what they are.

And the only thing worse than how much we spend on taxes, especially those we send to Washington and Uncle Sam, is how poorly Washington spends our hard-earned dollars. I am convinced, Madam Speaker, that we make horrible use of the dollars our taxpayers give us. And I'm convinced that if Congress in Washington were a manufacturing plant, we would manufacture spending. That's what we were designed to do. If we want our government to manufacture savings and efficiency, we need to retool the plant. We need to change the way Washington works.

I have a proposal that does that. This is a bill that I introduced as a freshman bipartisan Member with my good friend, Congressman Jim Turner from Texas. Well, we came in together as freshmen. It is the Federal Sunset Act. And what it does is its goal is to abolish obsolete agencies and eliminate duplications within programs because we know we don't spend money wisely. What the commission does is, bipartisan, made up equally of Republicans and Democrats, mostly legislators, but it also includes four members appointed from the public, and basically what it does is it places an expiration date on every Federal agency and program where they have to justify their existence or face elimination.

They have to justify their existence not on what they were for created 80 years ago or 60 or 40 years ago, but they answer the question, Do they deserve our precious tax dollars to date? Ronald Reagan once said, The closest thing to eternal life on Earth is a Federal program, and he is right.

The other thing, of course, is once created, Federal programs duplicate themselves. They clone themselves, it seems like. For example, we have more than 300 separate different economic development programs. We have more than 100 separate, different, or separate job-development programs. We have 64 different welfare programs. There are so many urban aid, inner-city programs, different ones, that we could get in a car once a week and visit one in a week, and it would take us nearly 9 years just to see those programs in that one year. We waste and duplicate too much of America's hard-earned money.

The Sunset Commission has worked now in over 24 States, so it's a proven method of cutting wasteful spending. In my home State of Texas over the years, it has abolished 54 State agencies, consolidated 12 more, and saved our taxpayers nearly \$1 billion. That's

in one State. I'm convinced it can do even more in Washington.

Our government, unfortunately, for all of the good things it does, is too big and too fast. It needs to go on a diet. And the Federal Sunset Commission isn't a crash diet. It's a take-off-pounds-sensibly diet where each party, who seems to talk about wanting to balance a budget, who always wants to talk about cutting wasteful spending but won't act to do it, it gives both parties the responsibility and the ability to work together to streamline this big, bloated Federal Government so that a Tax Freedom Day, whether it is April 23 this year or if President Bush's tax cuts are to expire, which they shouldn't, we would actually work until May, the fifth month of the year, until we start working for ourselves.

It is important that if we want to have lower taxes, more freedom and use taxpayers' money wisely, we need to enact a Federal Sunset Commission and enact it today. And I think that is the constitutional role of this Congress is while we may collect the taxes, we have even greater responsibility to limit its use as a government and to make sure they're used as wisely and efficiently as possible.

And with that, again, the gentleman from Michigan has led the effort here among Republicans and among the Republican Study Committee to better define our Constitution and Congress' real role. I think these days, that's even more important we do that.

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. I thank the gentleman for taking the lead on this issue, not only in this session of Congress, but in the past session of Congress as well where I have been a proud cosponsor of your legislation because it goes a long ways to, what was that phrase that Barry Goldwater used when he came to Washington the first time? He said, I did not come to Washington to streamline government or make it more efficient. I came to Washington to eliminate it. And that's what you're trying to do as well with the intent of the legislation is define those areas of government that are extra-Constitutional, outside of the bounds of the Constitution, find those portions of government that are wasteful, duplicative and the like and to basically eliminate those so that the Federal Government can appropriately focus its attention on those areas that it's supposed to and then get that job done so that you and I can go back to our constituents and say that we are fulfilling the role of the Constitution and we are doing it in a Constitutional manner.

I will yield.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. For 30 years, picking up on what you just said, the public doesn't have to take my word for how inefficient we are, even your words, Mr. GARRETT, about how inefficient it is.

Recently, the Office of Management and Budget assessed over a thousand Federal agencies. They determined

that nearly one-quarter are simply not performing. These agencies account for nearly \$123 billion annually in increased spending, in duplicative spending, in spending that no longer works or helps anyone. And I keep thinking, what would our families do with \$123 billion of their own money that they're sending us and we're wasting? What could they do for the families? What dreams could they reach? What decisions would they make and not rely on government to do that?

I just think that all of this is about giving more faith in people than it is in government, and I think that's what our Founding Fathers intended this great Republic to be.

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. I appreciate your hard work on this initiative so that, as I say, when we go back to our constituents and one of those bills comes up in the future, and it will come up, when it's laden with additional spending, I'm not talking about earmarks or proverbial pork barrel spending, I'm talking about just legislation, that appropriation for dollars going to some other duplicative-type programs that you mention out there that we, you and I and the rest of us who are in agreement on this issue, can go back to our constituents and say, I voted the right way. I voted to eliminate those programs. I voted to downsize those programs. I voted to make sure that all we have left standing are those things that the Founders would agree with and that the programs and the agencies and the services that the public desires and demands and it's within the confines of the Constitution, and they're getting it done in an effective and efficient manner.

So I appreciate your taking the bold step to accomplish that, and we're behind you on that. Now, if we can get the support on the other side of the aisle and move this legislation, we will be even further down the field than that.

We're joined again by the gentleman from Utah to join us in this discussion on the Constitution and more specifically, on the Brady bill with regard to the sunseting these wasteful, duplicative unconstitutional initiatives that the Federal Government is wanting and ripe to continue but for the fact that we have legislation like this.

I yield to the gentleman from Utah.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. I thank the gentleman from New Jersey for yielding some time. I appreciate the gentleman from Texas who has introduced this particular piece of legislation.

Madam Speaker, many of us grew up listening to vinyl records played on phonographs, something that my kids have probably never heard, let alone seen. But for its day, the phonograph was an amazing device. It gave beautiful music, or maybe not so beautiful music, into our homes; it brought great orchestras and bands to those who would have never heard them otherwise. And a few people still use them,

but most of them had replaced them long ago with tapes and CD's and MP3 files, and other types of digital media acknowledging that the phonograph and vinyl record are outdated and that better technologies are available.

In the same vein, most of us gave up typewriters a long time ago for computers. But there are a few who, for fear or suspicion, cling to their ancient and inefficient typewriters. Admittedly, the typewriter was a marvelous tool in its time, but there are simply better tools available now.

So, Madam Speaker, I want to make the point that it's always a shame to see things that last beyond their usefulness, whether it's an outdated technology, a once-great athlete eventually cut from a team, or even a U.S. senator. You like to see things end in their prime and retain their dignity.

Madam Speaker, I'm not here to propose a Commission for Involuntary Retirement of Senators. Nor will I suggest an investigation into aging athletes who should call it quits. I think Mr. WAXMAN could probably do that for us all. I'm here to support Mr. BRADY's idea for a Federal Sunset Commission to evaluate government agencies and find those agencies that are outdated and beyond their usefulness.

You see, in most sectors of American life, the free market simply dictates that old products, as great as they may have at one time been, are replaced by newer, better products. Unfortunately in the government, that process of creative destruction stops after we create the first version. The old out-of-date programs or agencies don't really get replaced. It stays around. Performing, maybe not performing, duplicative functions and sucking up tax dollars at the same time.

Several years ago, the comptroller, David Walker, pointed out that the USDA, the FDA, and 10 other Federal agencies administer 35 different food safety laws; the Department of Homeland Security, Justice, and HHS administer 16 different grant programs for first responders; and USDA and HUD both provide assistance for rural housing. And I won't even go into the Department of Education; that would be too easy.

Why do we have such a hard time getting rid of old programs? It simply has to do with public-choice theory. Every government agency and program, no matter how outdated, has a core constituency who benefit from its existence. Those who are employed at the agency or program and those who receive benefits have a huge incentive to fight for its continued existence. I understand this attitude. I basically did the same thing as a teacher. I was not content, as many of the old-guard teachers were, to simply teach the same lesson year after year. So I and other innovative staff members started

new programs like the Historical Society, the Renaissance Festival, a scholarship program, an oral history program, and Close-Up, an internship program at our State capitol. Now, fortunately, most of these program enhancements cost the school very little money except my time, but I did it because I always wanted to have a bigger role at the school. The status quo was never sufficient; I wanted to do more.

And herein lies the problem for both government programs and for me as a teacher: In our mindset, if a program is not growing, something is wrong. To self justify, government agencies and offices always think of new ways to expand their "services." The goal is always "bigger" and "more," which ends up costing the taxpayers. The desire to grow is the natural instinct of any government agency, and it is the natural instinct of us, but it means to control government, a legislative body has to continually fight that which naturally occurs. It's always an uphill battle. We continue the old and introduce the new.

Simply, what we do is when we introduce a new program and there is still an old one in place, it puts us in the silly position of using a computer and a typewriter at the same time. Comptroller Walker, before he retired, in the same report that I just quoted, said, "A fundamental reassessment of government programs, policies, and activities can help weed out programs that are outdated, ineffective, unsustainable, or simply a lower priority than they used to be. In most Federal mission areas, from low-income housing to food safety to higher education assistance, national goals are achieved through the use of a variety of tools and increasingly through participation of many organizations such as State and local governments that are beyond the direct control of the Federal Government."

"Government cannot accept as given all of the existing major programs, policies, and operations. A fundamental review of what the Federal Government does, how it does it, and in some cases, who does the government's business, will be required, particularly given the demographic tidal wave that is starting to show on our fiscal horizon."

"A fundamental reassessment." It's a novel idea. Make agencies and programs continually prove their value. That brings us to Mr. BRADY's bill, the Federal Sunset Act of 2008. Sunset commissions aren't a new idea. States, as are often the case, are ahead of us here. I'm told that there are 24 States currently that have some form of a sunset review and have saved millions of dollars through this process, and it is simply about time the Federal Government follows their lead.

P.J. O'Rourke once said, "the mystery of government is not how Washington works, but how to make it stop." Mr. BRADY's bill helps solve that mystery. It's a practical solution that

will make it easier to get rid of outdated or low-performing or duplicative or wasteful government agencies and programs, and I commend him for reintroducing this bill.

□ 2030

It is something this government has to have to put some balance and rationality and logic back into the delivery of services by the Federal Government.

And with that, I would be happy to yield back to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Well, if I may just follow up. You made, sir, I think a key component of why we need this. Right now in Washington today, if you try to abolish an agency that has outlived its usefulness or you question programs that duplicate themselves, there is always someone who jumps up and says, well, you know, I remember they've done some good things in the past. Almost impossible to do it. The Federal Sunset Commission changes that around and it basically says to the agency, you must justify your existence to taxpayers, not just to law makers, but to taxpayers themselves. You have to prove your value and worth and success.

When I served in the Texas legislature, what I saw was in the 2 years before an agency was sunset, it was amazing how responsive they became, how quickly they returned your phone calls, how responsive they were on their letters. Now they were under the mistaken belief that their customers were actually the legislature. Their customers are the taxpayers. I want to reintroduce customer service back into our government, and I want agencies to know that if they drift far away from their original mission, if they do not perform and produce, if they don't recognize that they work for the public, the public doesn't work for them, they work for the public, if they forget that, they need to understand that on a regular basis they will be held accountable for it. And I think that's a part of our government today. Unfortunately, that is missing.

One thing, too, I've noticed, my experience in sunseting at State level, the gentleman from Utah mentioned it, is that programs that succeed, that do their job, spend their money wisely, perform and are responsive to the taxpayers, they do beautifully in the sunset. They have no problem at all. It is the programs that don't do any of those that struggle. And my belief is that we should fund constitutional programs that deliver quality services to our taxpayers, and not a dime for those who don't, not a dime for those who don't. And what's interesting, we've had one vote on the House floor in 12 years on this. Congressman TURNER and I offered an amendment to a bill, and it passed with 272 votes, 2-1 margin. Now, the bill it was attached to eventually died, those things happen here in Washington, DC, but it showed us that there is support.

We put this issue of a Federal sunset bill on a national poll some years ago, we wanted to know how America felt about it. Seventy-seven percent of Americans across every region believed we need a Federal sunset act and we should hold agencies accountable to the taxpayers. And I believe that done wisely and done well, this could be an effective tool for shrinking the size of our government, using our tax dollars more wisely. And in a time of war, in a time of deficits, I think it's even more important for both parties to pull together, find new tools they can both use day in and day out to try to squeeze the absolute best out of every tax dollar that is sent to us.

And with that, I would yield either to the gentleman from Utah or the leader of this special hour, the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. I thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BRADY) for being on the floor tonight and also for the subject, for introducing this Federal Sunset Act, an act which would, as he said, return our country and our government to the intent as set forth by our Founding Fathers.

And when you think about it, in light of the extremely high taxes and even higher deficit, the time for greater efficiency in government couldn't be any greater than it is today. The American worker is handing far too much of his or her hard-earned money, his paycheck each week over to the Federal Government only to see it wasted in layers of bureaucracy, red tape and so on. I think you quoted Ronald Reagan before when you said that a government bureau is the nearest thing to eternal thing that we'll ever see on Earth, but regrettably, longevity truly has nothing to do whatsoever with a program's effectiveness or efficiency or usefulness to the American people. Just because it's been around a long time doesn't mean that it's good.

Now, the background for the idea of a sunset, as the gentleman from Utah said, comes from the States, who are usually on the cutting edge because they are the laboratory of experimentation. And the sunset takes its name from the sunset laws used by many States to provide for a periodic review of the efficiency and effectiveness of the agency operations and their policies. It was back in 1976 that Colorado was the first State to implement a sunset. And at the State level this process has saved the taxpayer hundreds and hundreds of millions of dollars. And it has also reduced the size of government at the same time. And simply how it works is that each and every Federal agency must justify its own existence, and not its existence from the time that it was created, which may have been 100 years ago or 80 years or 60 or 40 or even 10 years ago, but its existence today to the consumer, which is the taxpayer, constituent. And then after a thorough evaluation, the commission recommends to Congress that

an agency be reauthorized, streamlined, consolidated, or in some cases, maybe even eliminated.

So why is that a great idea? It's a great idea because, as we said before, the Federal Government is just far too big, too fat, too wasteful. And especially now, in a time of war, in a time of deficit, don't we need every single dollar to really count, to be accounted for and to go for what is necessary? And a Federal sunset law is truly a proven way to abolish those obsolete Federal programs, eliminate duplication, and hold every agency accountable to the taxpayer.

You know, it's no secret that there are many Federal programs that are simply not serving the American public. And these are the programs that have outlived their purpose, duplicated other programs, simply waste taxpayer dollars by diverting dollars away from real priorities and into what you might want to say is a black hole of ineffectiveness, which is what we see in Washington. And I think Mr. BRADY said it, a taxpayer now works up to 113 days out of a year just to pay for his share of the Federal Government's spending of ineffectiveness.

Unfortunately, these programs survive anyway. And they survive because of special interests, these cottage industries that grow down here that live off the taxpayer earnings. But you know, Madam Speaker, we're not here to represent any of those special interests. We are here to represent the mothers and fathers who could be at home with their children instead of working an extra shift so that they can make their contribution to this bloated bureaucracy that we call Washington. With a Federal deficit in the billions of dollars and with taxes that are too high and too unfair, we must do everything we can to ensure that our Federal spending is as limited as possible and most efficient as possible.

And with that, let me just make one additional point. The idea and why we come to the floor now and why I commend Mr. BRADY so much for his work on this is that the Federal Government was intended to be limited by the Founding Fathers, and this Sunset Commission would give us the opportunity to revisit that issue.

I often say that when we vote on a bill, specifically on appropriation bills or authorization bills, and as we take out of our pocket the little card, which is our voting right, we should ask ourselves whether or not we have the constitutional authority to be voting yes on that spending or authorization bill. And in order to know whether we have that authority, we should be looking to the U.S. Constitution.

Now, what this Sunset bill would basically force us to do is to look to see whether we actually have that authority and make each one of those Federal bureaus and agencies and departments and so on and so forth, whether they have that specific authority to do what they have been doing for 20 or 40 or

more years, and whether, therefore, they should be eliminated or continued, or not.

There have been different perspectives on whether or not these agencies should have the authority. And what we would have to do in this instance is take a look at what the Constitution says. One area we look to is article I, section 8, which basically would set out for the Congress, as they review these agencies and as we should really be looking at any time we look at any piece of legislation that comes before us, and this sets forth the enumerated powers of the Constitution and the powers here in Congress.

There are a couple of views on how this is interpreted, but both of them are basically a limitation. Enumerated powers means that if it's listed in the Constitution, they are enumerating, they are listing certain powers that we have the right of. And therefore, the converse of that is if they are not enumerated, if they are not listed, then, therefore, we do not have the power to do so. And therefore, if there is an agency that does not have the specific powers to conduct its activity, that program should be eliminated.

Now, the one view most strict on this, of course, was James Madison, who repeatedly argued that the power to tax and spend, which is what we're talking about when we're talking about appropriations or authorizations, did not confer upon the Congress the right to do whatever it thought was best in the interest of the Nation, but only to further the ends specifically enumerated elsewhere in the Constitution. So you have to look either there or someplace else in the Constitution.

The second view on this, of course, is a little bit broader, but still pretty limited, and would still fall under this bill as far as a review under this bill as to what we should be doing here. And that simply says, does the agency, the bureau's activities, does it contain its own limitation, namely, that spending under this law be for general use, that is, national welfare, not purely for local or regional benefit. And so here what the founders were intending to say is if it's general use, general welfare, does it apply across the board to the benefit of everyone? Now, when we do this, and if this legislation were to become law and we are able to systematically look at each and every agency, I think we would find that much of what we appropriate our dollars for, the taxpayers dollars for does not meet either one of these tests. It is not simply a power that is being enumerated elsewhere in the Constitution, nor is it for the general use of the entire country. And when you look for the definition of the general use of the entire country, we can look again to see how the founders interpreted that when they passed in the First and the Second, Third or Fourth Congress as to how they interpreted it.

You know, in the very First Congress of the United States, they looked at an

example to make an appropriation for a loan to a glass manufacturer. That piece of legislation failed in Congress after Members expressed the view that such an appropriation would be unconstitutional under article I, section 8. Likewise, under the Fourth Congress, they did not believe the power to provide relief for citizens of Savannah, Georgia after a devastating fire destroyed the entire city; likewise, outside the purview of the Constitution.

Whether we are talking about restrictions under this provision or otherwise, the sunset provision would give Congress in the future the opportunity to review each and every agency to make sure that it is operating within the confines of the Constitution as intended by the Founding Fathers, and that it can only be a good thing at the end of the day for the U.S. citizen.

With that, I yield the remaining time to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Well, again, I would praise the gentleman from New Jersey for being a leader and the gentleman from Utah on trying to reinvent government, take it back to the features, take it back to its roots and make it work for us.

I was intrigued by the gentleman from New Jersey's comments about our Founding Fathers because I was reading one of the many books about Thomas Jefferson. And he sent a letter back to a colleague, as the third President of the United States, where he expressed frustration that he was already struggling to try to close down Federal programs that had already outlived their usefulness. This was our third President, and he was already fighting to do that. It tells you what a challenge we have.

But I am convinced that if both parties really mean it, that we can accomplish this. I think if we spent less time in Washington holding hearings on steroids and baseball, you know, if we spent less time promoting longer lasting light bulbs, and those are good, of course, but the priorities of this country, I think this Congress especially is disconnected from the real world, from what real families face. And when people are paying so much out of their paycheck and paying so much at the pump, it just isn't a responsibility to use their money wisely, it's an obligation. It's in the Constitution. It's in principle. It's really a case in morality. But we're taking people's money and wasting it.

I hope people who are watching tonight will call their Member of Congress and ask why aren't they in support of the Sunset Commission, why don't they get on the Sunset Commission and use their thoughts and ideas to trim this budget? Because I'm telling you, we have Members of Congress, both parties, who I think can do an excellent job, but we have to have the will and the backbone to do it first. And I again applaud the gentleman from New Jersey for being a leader on constitutional issues here in Washington.

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. And I thank the gentleman from Texas. I thank the gentleman from Utah as well for being on the floor, and for both your leadership on this issue.

ENERGY IN AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Madam Speaker, it's an honor to be recognized to address you here on the floor of the United States House of Representatives.

I listened to my colleagues with great interest, and I appreciate the constitutional acumen that they bring to the floor. I honor their work and support their statements, and do through a rather unsmooth segue into the issue that I believe needs to be addressed here, Madam Speaker, so that there can be a greater depth of knowledge about the subject of energy in this country.

First of all, there is a certain idea that somehow we can talk about energy conservation and we can pass legislation to require automobiles to get 75 miles to the gallon and somehow that's not going to cost a price in quality of life or in engineering costs. And some people believe that that can actually happen. And I know that if we go so far as to mandate such a thing, you would have to park your Harley today because it wouldn't get that kind of mileage. And if that's going to happen with a family automobile, I would like to know how that is designed to be done without putting us in a very flexible and crashable vehicle that doesn't provide very much safety for the people that are inside.

I'm concerned about that approach, Madam Speaker, and I'm concerned about an approach that believes that there is maybe only one or two things we can do with energy, and maybe there is a silver bullet here to solve all of this.

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Madam Speaker, there is no silver bullet on energy. It is a cost of everything that we do. A cup of coffee, a pair of shoes, a suit, a ticket to the ball game, a television set, everything that we might buy or consume, including all of our food, the price of it is wrapped up in energy. And inflation of energy is inflation of everything. And as we watched gas prices go up since the beginning of this Congress, this 110th Congress, when Speaker PELOSI took the gavel, gas prices have gone up over 50 percent in that period of time. And the promise was, well, there was going to be a commonsense approach to energy.

Madam Speaker, I'm still waiting for that commonsense approach. I've seen pieces of legislation come across this floor a number of times in this 110th Congress, and every piece of legislation

that addressed energy raised the cost of energy, and no piece of legislation increased the supply of energy, which would reduce the cost.

The law of supply and demand is that if you have more supply than you have demand, prices fall because the sellers have to discount in order to turn their product into cash. And if you have a demand that's higher than the supply, the price goes up because the buyers are willing to pay more because they want it; so they compete for the product.

Just the same way as if you're a great athlete, Madam Speaker, and maybe only a few people can sky walk above the hoop and slam the ball down through in a basketball court, and only a few of those people get offered the millions of dollars because it's a rare talent. There's a lot of demand for that kind of talent and only a little bit of supply. So the price for a very highly talented basketball player goes up and up. The same goes for all of our sports. We can see that easily. If you're a clutch pitcher and you can step into a baseball game with the bases loaded and nobody out and are ahead by one run and take them down three at a time and you can do that consistently and perform well under pressure, if you've got that kind of control, you're worth a lot of money in that arena because the supply is low and the demand is high.

Well, with energy the supply is low and the demand is high, just like it is for a very talented basketball player or a very talented attorney or a very talented actress or a very talented CEO. So how do you reverse this when you're dealing with the American people, whose standard of living and quality of life is wrapped up in this cost of energy? And, Madam Speaker, I will submit that we must increase the supply of energy, in every category that we intend to use energy, we need to increase the supply.

Now, if you'll imagine, Madam Speaker, in your mind's eye, a pie chart, a 360-degree pie chart of all the components of our sources of energy, and that would include gasoline and diesel fuel and natural gas and clean burning coal. It would include wind energy, solar energy, ethanol, biodiesel and biomass, hydroelectric, and it would include nuclear. And also on that pie chart, we need to add a slice in there for energy conservation because energy conservation is—on this, Madam Speaker, I agree with the majority party. Energy conservation is an important component of our overall energy solution.

But there is no energy solution that has been offered by the leadership here. We do not have a commonsense solution that's been offered by the leadership. We have pieces of legislation that raise the cost of energy, blocking certain parts of the publicly owned lands from drilling. And the places where we could drill, there has already been a blockage of being able to transport

natural gas or oil through those public lands. So we have taken millions of acres of oil-producing lands off-limits, off-limits to the American people, while we are dependent on foreign oil. The exact opposite that I believe that we should do.

And we're not drilling in ANWR. Now, ANWR, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, whoever named that was really thinking ahead if they thought that they wanted to lock up a lot of energy underneath the frozen tundra. But I went up there to look at that land. I really thought that if I would get up there, I would find ANWR, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge—I believed I would get there and it would be teeming with wildlife. I thought caribou would be running all over the place and there would be some wolves there picking off the strays, and I thought there would be some musk-oxen and maybe some Arctic fox, and I thought I would see an alpine forest because I had seen that in one of the commercials that said "Don't drill ANWR."

Well, I went up there, and I did actually do the research to find out where the furthest-most northerly tree is. If you remember, Madam Speaker, I think you and I learned this in eighth grade science class that the Arctic Circle and the Antarctic Circle are lines around the globe—on the northern hemisphere, the Arctic Circle is a line around the globe, north of which trees don't grow. So it shouldn't be a surprise to anybody to find out there are no trees in ANWR. And it was a surprise to me to find out that there is no resident caribou herd there. I did see four musk-oxen as we flew all over ANWR looking for some wildlife. We saw that and two white birds, and that was the extent of it, although there are some whales that get harvested as they swim along the shoreline and there are some polar bears that live up there along the shore. So it's not without wildlife.

But we drilled in the North Slope of Alaska back in 1973—1972 and 1973 was when it began. There was a great concern about disturbing the natural regions up there and a concern that we would tear up the natural tundra and it could never be replaced again and that there would be oil spills that soaked up that couldn't be cleaned up.

And, Madam Speaker, I went up there and found out that we have drilled in the North Slope, and we have done it well. And if we fly across that North Slope and look around, I couldn't identify a single oil well, not one. They are all submersible pumps set down below the ground level. And the pads that are there for workover are places that they drive to on ice. So when the ice melts in the summer, there's no sign that anybody approached the well. And the caribou herd went from 7,000 head in 1972 to 28,000 head as of a couple, 3 years ago. That's a fourfold increase in caribou herd in the North Slope in Alaska, in a region that was alleged to have been

poised before it was drilled to having the wildlife and the natural environment there damaged significantly. It has not been, and there is no example that it was. The only example that we can find is that caribou like to get up on the higher ground where the wind blows the flies off of them and they like to have their calves up there out of the water; so their population has increased. But those are the caribou herds that are resident to the North Slope of Alaska, but there are no caribou herds that are residents in ANWR. So the natural animal life there won't benefit quite as much except the caribou do migrate into ANWR to have their calves in the spring starting about mid-May, early to mid-May, and then along about mid-June or the latter part of June when the calves are strong enough, they walk back over to Canada, where they actually do live.

But in that whole region in the North Slope, no spills, no measurable impact on the environment. And we can do the same thing, only better, in ANWR. We can do it with about a 2,000-acre footprint, and we can drill directionally, and we can open that up and we can bring that oil over to the Alaska pipeline, pump it down to Valdez, and put it on tankers and ship it like we have done out of Alaska for years and years successfully. That oil needs to come out. It needs to come out of the ground. It needs to go into the marketplace.

You cannot defy the law of supply and demand. If you shut down the supply and the demand remains the same, the price goes up. If you increase the demand and you keep the supply the same, the price goes up. We have both of those things happening. We have a demand increase, and we have a supply growth that's being shut down.

And not only that, Madam Speaker, but instead of voting down drilling on publicly owned land, and I will say nonnational park public lands, we need to open up our nonnational park public lands for drilling. We need to do that. We need to drill in the Outer Continental Shelf, primarily offshore Florida, where we know there are at least 406 trillion cubic feet of natural gas. And where the people who are sitting on the beach, there's a concern that if they have information that there's a drill rig out there at 199 miles, though you can't see it much beyond about 12 miles, but if there's a drill rig out there offshore at 199 miles, some folks are afraid that people won't go sit on the beach if they hear a rumor that there's a drill rig out there. So we shut off a 200-mile limit for exploration when a country like this needs the natural gas and a country like this needs the oil. We need to drill the Outer Continental Shelf all the way up and down our coast off of California, all the way north as far as there is energy. We need to tap into it. We need to tap into it all, Madam Speaker, and put it all on the market.

And we need to add into that the alternative energy uses that we have. We

have developed a tremendous industry in renewable fuels. And I speak from a base of, I will say, experience, and I represent the Fifth Congressional District of Iowa. There are 435 congressional districts in Iowa, and of the 435 districts, there's only one that produces the most renewable energy, and that's the Fifth District of Iowa, when you count ethanol, biodiesel, and wind.

But I see my good friend from California, former chairman, now ranking member of the Armed Services Committee, Mr. DUNCAN HUNTER, to whom I'd be so happy to yield.

And I appreciate your being down here, DUNCAN.

Mr. HUNTER. I thank my friend for yielding. And the gentleman from Iowa is indeed an expert on renewable energy, and I've spent a lot of time in his wonderful State examining that program, which is very robust right now.

I thought the gentleman might be interested, because this is a subject that's near and dear to your heart, in the recent progress on the border fence and the recent actions that have been undertaken by the administration.

The gentleman from Iowa and I have linked arms on a number of occasions to do several things: one, pass the border fence legislation that mandates the construction of a double fence across the southern border for about 854 miles. And as we know, that legislation was watered down some in December by the Senate, but it remains a mandate to do at least 700 miles of fence. And the administration just undertook the waiver of environmental regulations that would keep the fence from being built for many years.

In fact, I remember that when we tried to fence Smugglers Gulch, where a great deal of cocaine came into the United States between San Diego, California, and Tijuana, Mexico, we were delayed for 12 years by a series of lawsuits and regulations being invoked. I think the last regulatory delay revolved around whether or not a gnatcatcher would fly over a 12-foot-high fence, and after a year I think the experts concluded that indeed that gnatcatcher could clear the fence; so we could build it.

So the administration has invoked this waiver, and I want to commend Secretary Chertoff for undertaking that waiver because it's absolutely necessary if we're going to get the fence built. Otherwise, we will never get it built. And today the southwest border, and particularly Texas along with Arizona, are absolutely on fire with the smuggling of drugs and illegal aliens. And last year they moved about 22 metric tons of cocaine across the border, across the southwest border, and about 368 tons of marijuana. So it's still a trafficking corridor or a series of corridors which are flowing relatively unimpeded by this relatively small force of Border Patrolmen and Customs and DEA agents who attend the border. But getting that double-border fence up, and in some cases it's a single

fence—I would like to see a double fence all the way across—but getting that fence up is going to have a great, very salutary effect on law enforcement in the United States.

And I'm reminded that when we built the double fence in San Diego, the crime rate by FBI statistics in the county of San Diego dropped by 56.3 percent. And I think if we indeed get the series of fences up across the southwest border, you're going to see fewer criminal aliens being incarcerated at the Federal, State, and local level. And right now there are 250,000 of them in incarceration.

So since the gentleman has been my partner in these endeavors, I knew he would want to hear the report.

A hearing was chaired by the Committee on Resources and two subcommittees in Brownsville, Texas, and I think we aired the issues very fully. And if you listened to all the testimony, a couple of things were clear: One, we need the fence because no one has an alternative; and, number two, if we don't get the waivers, we will never get the fence built.

So I thought the gentleman would be interested in that progress, and I just wanted to report that to him.

And I thank you for yielding.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Reclaiming my time, Madam Speaker, I very much appreciate the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER) for coming to the floor and filling us all in on this report.

I look at the statistics, and absolutely I support the mandate of Congress. You say 700 miles, but when you calculate curves in the border, it comes out to 854 miles, as the gentleman has said. The 22 metric tons of drugs and you add to that the 368 tons of—

Mr. HUNTER. Of marijuana.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Of marijuana. And I happen to know that the value of those drugs coming across our southern border are \$65 billion worth of illegal drugs.

□ 2100

That is with a B. To try to get one's mind around \$65 billion; what is that? Well, for example, PEMEX, Mexican nationalized oil company, produces about \$28 billion worth of oil pumped out of Mexico and along the Gulf; \$28 billion. This is about 2½ times the value of all the illegal drugs coming into the United States. The 250,000 criminal illegal aliens that are incarcerated in the United States amounts to 27 percent of the criminal population, the inmate population in our Federal penitentiaries, and there is a report that came out in April of 2005 that shows that we are funding about one out of every four prisoners that apply. And you do the math on that, and it comes out to about 25 percent of our State and local prisons are criminal inmates there as well.

So when I look at what happens in places like Israel, where they have built a fence that has been almost 100 percent effective, you can't make the

argument, I don't believe, that it's not effective when you put up a barrier to keep people out. It's a lot different than building a Berlin Wall, for example, to keep people in. This is a barrier to keep people out. And with those that do come in, the crime that comes in with that, as the gentleman from California said, a reduction of 56.3 percent in the Smugglers Gulch area.

There are Americans that are dying every day in this country at the hands of people that if they were simply kept in the country where they are citizens, their crimes would be perpetrated someplace else. The measure of that is far greater than our casualties in the Middle East. I don't think there's any way to calculate it otherwise.

As I add to this argument, I ought to point out also that the news I saw showed that in Tijuana over the weekend there was a running drug gang fight where they were driving through the streets, shooting at each other, with tourists around and residents around, and the number that I saw was 13 killed, and those that were killed, the way I understood it, were all criminal drug gangs.

Mr. HUNTER. If the gentleman will yield.

What that really amounts to is that this industry of moving this poison across the international border to the United States is cocaine that poisons our young people. That is such a massive industry now on the southern border of the U.S. that the drug gangs are fighting each other for control of this lucrative industry. That is what it represents. That is another reason why we need to build that border fence.

Incidentally, we had 202,000 arrests in the area where the fence has now been constructed between San Diego, California, and Tijuana, Mexico. After we constructed it, we went down to 9,000 arrests. That is a reduction of more than 90 percent. And in the Yuma sector, where we have also now constructed double fencing, we went from 138,000 arrests to a little under 4,000. That is more than a 95 percent reduction.

So of all the things that we have tried with respect to controlling the border, we have discovered that one thing does work and that is a border fence. The President and Mr. Chertoff should be commended for invoking this waiver that we gave them so we can move ahead on this very, very important part of the people's business, and that is keeping their kids safe.

The last statistic that I would give the gentleman that I brought up in Brownsville was this. Last year, we intercepted 58,000 people coming across the border from Mexico who were not citizens of Mexico. They came from virtually every country in the world. More than 800 of them came from Communist China, 14 came from Iran, and 3 of them came from North Korea. That means that anybody in the world with a television set can understand very quickly that the way to get into the

United States illegally is no longer through the airports, because they have been effectively blocked. It's to get to Mexico and cross the land border between Mexico and the U.S. Another reason to build the border fence.

Mr. KING of Iowa. I want to reiterate too the utilization of the waiver. As I have tracked that through the news, I also commend Secretary Chertoff for utilizing the waiver to go forward and build the fence. As the gentleman from California references, the fence and the triple barriers that exist down in the southwestern Arizona area, San Luis, south of Yuma, I remember visiting there and asking the question of Secretary Chertoff, We always hear the statement if you build, I will show you an 11-foot ladder, you build a 20-foot fence, I'll show you a 21-foot ladder.

I saw the fence down there, and as I asked this question, Has anyone defeated this barrier, and it had to be asked a number of times, and the answer came back no. When I was there, no one had defeated the new triple fencing barrier that was constructed in the San Luis area where the crossings have gone down from 138,000 to 4,000.

I ask the gentleman from California, are you aware that anyone has defeated the triple barrier fence anywhere?

Mr. HUNTER. No. As long as you have a modicum of manning, that is if you leave a fence totally alone, obviously a person can come in, sit down for hours with welding gear and cut through anything, or bring in heavy construction equipment and cut through anything. As long as you have a modicum of manning. That is why you have the Border Patrol road in between the fences, so the smuggler has to come across the first fence, cross a high speed Border Patrol road, sit down with his welding gear and work on the second fence, or carry that 22-foot ladder. Then the question comes back to the person who makes that statement—incidentally, that statement was made by Governor Napolitano, who is the Governor of Arizona.

Now, let me see. She said, You show me a 20-foot fence, I'll show you a 21-foot ladder. She derided the fence. And in her district where we built the double fence at Yuma, we have brought down the arrest rate from 138,000 to 4,000. So apparently the smugglers haven't read her statement that they should have no problem with this fence.

But it does work and, incidentally, the other thing it does is it leverages the Border Patrol. Because we were able to pull Border Patrolmen off our fenced area and move them to other places on the southern border. You don't need as many Border Patrolmen when you have an impediment, that is when you have the fence in place.

So for those who say the question is, How many Border Patrol can we get? You free up a lot of Border Patrolmen by having the fence. Incidentally, you need to have that double fence because

you trap the smugglers in between the two fences.

I thank the gentleman for yielding and for his great work on this important issue. We will continue to work together.

Mr. KING of Iowa. I thank the gentleman from California, who has been the leader on this fence and made sure the first got built and is here making sure that we get the last of it built. I just submit we don't have to build exactly 2,000 miles of fence to get this all done. I submit we build the Duncan Hunter 700/854 miles of fence and then we will just keep right on building as long as they keep going around the end. If they stop going around the end, we can stop building fence. If they start going around the end, we'll start building some more.

Mr. HUNTER. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. KING of Iowa. I thank the gentleman from

California. There's a lot more to be taken up on that. As a matter of transition on the cost of this border, we are spending \$8 billion on our southern border. When you calculate the cost of funding Border Patrol and all their equipment and all of the costs that are associated with that, as well as the costs of ICE and the enforcement that we have along on the border, about \$8 billion a year. That is \$4 million a mile. Now we can build interstate for that kind of money. Instead, we just simply want to build a couple of fences with some sensors on it and invest that money and get the return back in the first year.

As we recruit Border Patrol that come to work, I ask them to keep your spirits up and get tied into the mission. Often there is a loss of notion on that lack of mission if it's not clearly articulated. There isn't a place to compromise the law. When someone violates it, we must enforce it and follow through with prosecution. We need to put the resources in your hands so you can do that. You are brave Americans serving this country, serving us well. I go down along that part of the border and sit down in nice quiet meetings with brave Americans that are serving this country and I hear your stories. I hear them anonymously sometimes. And I sit along the border in the dark at night and watch and listen as the infiltration comes through.

I have got a sense of what you're up against. I'm sure I don't appreciate it the way you do, being faced against it every day. I appreciate the work, as this Congress does, and I appreciate the gentleman from California coming to the floor.

I wanted to swing back to the energy piece of this, Mr. Speaker, and as I talked about the different components of the energy pie, the overall pie chart, our sources of energy, and I listed a whole series of them: Gas, diesel, biodiesel, and nuclear, wind. The list goes on. Not necessarily to repeat them all, but just to refresh in our eye the things we are talking about here from the sources of energy that we have.

I was in the process of making the statement that of all 435 congressional districts in America, there is one congressional district that produces more renewable energy than any other congressional district. That is the Fifth Congressional District of Iowa. We are in the top three in ethanol production of all the congressional districts. We are the top biodiesel-producing district of all of the congressional districts. We are in the top one to four on wind. Perhaps today we are third or maybe second on wind generation of electricity. If you add up the Btu's we are converting into renewable energy sources, the Fifth District produces more than anybody else. So we ought to know a little more about it.

First of all, and I need to debunk some of the myths that are out there. One of them is a myth, it is a myth that it takes more energy to produce ethanol than you get out of the ethanol. That is a myth. There was a college professor that did a study that went back and added up all the energy it would take to produce the tractor and smelt the steel and produce the rubber for the tires and transport the tractor and the combine and the cultivator and the application equipment all the way to the farm field. They calculated all of the energy that it took to do that, as well as the energy it took to make seven passes over the field, if I remember that number correctly. It didn't add up quite good enough yet so they charged against the energy consumption to produce ethanol, this is to raise a crop of corn, by the way, 4,000 calories a day for the farm workers because it takes energy to keep them going.

When you get to that point, Mr. Speaker, you have to know that they are grasping at straws, they are reaching pretty hard to try to pull in as many ways that they can describe that there's energy consumption in ethanol production through corn. Well, let me submit, Mr. Speaker, that first of all, if you add all that up, then you can make anything so inefficient, we couldn't possibly do it. But the corn is going to be raised anyway. So that description isn't valid and it's not a rational way to compare how much energy that we are getting out of corn versus how much energy it takes to produce the equipment that raises the farm crop.

If we are going to measure the amount of energy used to produce tractors and combines that are used in the field, along with the diesel fuel or the gas that is in the tractor and in the combine and in the trucks that haul the grain away, then by the same comparison we have got to look at the energy that is consumed when we produce gasoline out of crude oil. It isn't just an inequation of a barrel sitting at the refinery of Texas. It is all of the military that has to go over to defend the oil fields. It's the anchor, all the energy it takes to cast the anchor for the battleship and all the energy it takes to produce weaponry of all kinds, and

the F-16s that have to fly in the air and the bullet proof vests and armored Humvees. How much energy does it take to drive an army? Are they consuming 4,000 calories a day? Perhaps they are. In fact, I'd submit more than that, as much as they are up against.

If you add all that up, you can compare that to the energy it takes to produce tractors and combines and energy in the form of ethanol out of corn. But I will submit that that is a ridiculous path to go down to try to prove something. I think that the study that said that it took more energy to produce ethanol, the specious one about measuring the energy it took to produce the tractor to farm the corn is a specious study and it is invalid and it was grasping at straws.

When the same people go back and calculate what it takes to put an army in the field and a navy in the sea and an air force in the air and how much fuel to drive all of that, compare that and the energy you get out of the crude oil versus the energy you get out of corn, we are still going to look really good, although neither comparison is valid.

So what is valid is this. We are going to raise the corn anyway. We have the oil out there coming out of the ground anyway. So what is valid is each one of them has a commodity price, and as ADAM SMITH said, the value of anything in the marketplace is the sum total of the capital that it takes to produce it and the labor that it takes to produce it. So when you add up the capital and the labor, and you look at the price, the market price, you will have those two things together.

For example, crude oil has gone up by the barrel from, not that long ago, \$50 a barrel, to \$118 or \$119 a barrel. That more than doubled over the last year and 15 months or so.

□ 2115

Why is that? Because of supply and demand. Because it has gotten more scarce, because there is more demand on the oil, and because the cost of capital and production and labor have gone up.

So we measure the value of the commodity in the marketplace. What does it command when it is marketed as a commodity? What is corn worth by the bushel, what is crude oil worth by the barrel? That is how we determine what it is worth.

I will submit this, Mr. Speaker, and that is that if we put a barrel of crude oil sitting outside the gates of the refinery, let's just say in Texas, and we are going to have to refine that crude oil and do what we call crack gas out of that crude oil, that takes energy to do that. And the energy that it takes to crack one Btu out of gasoline out of crude oil is 1.3 Btus of energy to do so.

If you put a bushel of corn sitting outside the gates of an ethanol plant in Iowa, for example, anyplace in the corn belt, and you are going to produce one Btu out of that corn in the form of eth-

anol, it will take .67 Btus of energy input to get one Btu out in ethanol in the form of corn.

If you do that in gasoline coming out of crude oil at the refinery in Texas, you will use up 1.3 Btus to get one Btu back. It is almost, by modern numbers, actually, twice as much energy consumed to produce gasoline from crude oil as it takes to get ethanol out of corn. That is a laboratory fact. It is not a negotiable one, it is not an opinion, it is a laboratory fact.

And they worry about water consumption, how much water does it take to produce ethanol for the amount of water that it takes to produce gasoline. Cracking gasoline takes significantly, multiple times more water than producing ethanol out of corn. Cracking gas out of crude oil, a lot more water than ethanol out of corn.

So we take care of those two arguments. Those things stand up with laboratories tests. Those are finite numbers. They are not negotiable. They are a matter of scientific fact. It isn't even "settled science," in the way Al Gore would say his opinion is. It is laboratory facts.

So, now we have this ethanol, and we have put it into the marketplace and we have produced upwards perhaps in the last year somewhere near 9 billion gallons of ethanol. And that is putting a dent into the overall supply. We are burning about 142 billion gallons of gasoline in a year, so the 9 million gallons of ethanol is approaching that level where it is significant in its contribution in keeping the cost of energy down.

But the argument comes back then to me and across the airwaves of this country, Mr. Speaker, that we have high food prices because the production of ethanol has taken corn off the marketplace and made food prices higher.

Now, why is it that people that don't understand the law of supply and demand when it comes to the cost of energy can all of a sudden discover the law of supply and demand when it comes to food prices, and then misinform themselves for the suitability of their own argument?

So it works like this: We don't consume a lot of field corn for human consumption. Most of it, if it is not processed into some 300-some different products, but most of the field corn is used in livestock feed and it does get converted into food that way.

But here is how this works. In 2007 we produced 13.1 billion bushels of corn. Of that, we exported 2.5 billion bushels of corn. That left 10.6 billion bushels back for us, 10.6 billion to use here domestically. Of that, we converted 3.2 billion into ethanol, a little over 9 billion gallons of ethanol. That left 7.4 bushels of corn for domestic production. That 7.4 billion gets added back to it at least half of the corn that we use for ethanol, because there is a high grade animal feed product that is a by-product of ethanol production. That would be about 1.6 billion bushel equivalent added back in.

So we end up with exactly, by my calculation here, 9.0 billion bushels of corn to be used here domestically for animal feed, for processing into the things that we process it into. And so the argument would be, well is that 9.0 billion bushel, is that more or less corn than we normally have for domestic production?

We pushed our production up, and over the last 6 years we have produced an average of only 10.3 billion bushels of corn, and we have exported about 2 billion. So that takes us down to 8.3 billion bushels of corn available in an average year. Last year there was 9 billion bushels available. And yet the people who don't understand the law of supply and demand when it comes to energy seem to think that even though we have more domestic corn available on the market here in the United States, even after we exported more corn than ever before, somehow they think that is what is driving up food prices.

Mr. Speaker, I submit food prices are driven up because of energy costs, not because of the supply and demand on corn, because we have more corn. And so all we have to do is look at the numbers to understand this and realize the cheap dollar has been driving up commodity prices for food, it has been driving up gas prices, it has been driving up the cost of defense.

I would be happy to yield to my friend from California.

Mr. HUNTER. I thank my friend for yielding. He truly is the resident expert on ethanol production and it has been very interesting to listen to him.

Another aspect of providing enough energy, of course, and becoming energy independent, which really is a national security issue at this point, is that we have to use all of our sources. And it is important for this body and for the other body, for the U.S. Senate, to pass finally permission for us to drill in Alaska.

Right now we have got an abolition on drilling, a lot of impediments to moving forward and increasing the amount of petroleum product that is available to the American people. If we drill in Alaska, and, incidentally, the Alaskan pipeline has not hurt any wildlife species. You can see caribou rubbing their summer coats on the Alaskan pipeline. They are that worried about it.

If we drill in Alaska, we are going to find new oil. We will also be able to utilize the production that is available there. And every drop of oil that we produce in this continent is oil that we don't have to worry about coming through the Straits of Hormuz. That is that narrow channel of water where the Iranian gunboats came out and harassed an American naval ship here a couple of months ago, where we are constantly watching a short-fused situation with very unstable countries, monitoring that particular dangerous part of the world.

Having energy independence for this country is a very, very important part

of national security, and we should open up Alaska so we can utilize in a very responsible way the petroleum resources that lie under that great State.

I thank the gentleman.

Mr. KING of Iowa. I thank the gentleman from California for bringing his background and expertise to this. Sometimes there is a different view on things between California and Iowa, and I don't find that to be the case when it comes to common sense, particularly when it has to do with energy production and when it has to do with the immigration issues that are there.

I have, of course, traveled to ANWR and seen the situation up there. I would add also that the people that believe that we are going to run out of energy supply here in the world and so somehow we should not tap into the known energy, what would be a better time to go where we know we have a lot of energy than right now, get up to Alaska and drill that?

We are hearing also announcements of huge energy finds around the globe. For example, we know that there are tremendous reserves of oil off the West Coast of Africa, and offshore is a good thing in that part of the world because it is actually easier to provide security offshore than onshore in some of those areas. Brazil has announced two huge crude oil finds, oil fields, there. And with the Chevron find in the Gulf of Mexico a year-and-a-half or so, it was another huge find. And they announced the other day there are 3.4 billion barrels of oil in the North Dakota and Montana area, in that overthrust area they were drilling in 20 or 25 years ago. Now they go down about 10,000 feet and they have to drill then from there horizontally with new technology, and they can draw the oil out. There are 3.4 billion barrels of oil up there, along with one of the world's largest oil supplies, the oil sands area in northern Alberta, which we hope to build a pipeline down and tap that in and refine it here in the United States. We have got that going on. We have a nuclear power plant under construction in South Carolina today. So we are taking some steps.

But the barrier here in this Congress, the leadership that is provided currently with the people that hold the gavels, it is all about cutting down on the supply of energy and raising the price, because I think that they believe, and maybe the gentleman from California is better tuned into this myopic belief, but I think they believe that if they can raise the cost of energy and take supply down, people will ride bicycles and park their car. And that doesn't help grandma very much in January in Iowa when she is 10 miles away from town. But if they ride bicycles more and then drive up the cost of everything we do, somehow that saves the environment and saves the planet. That is what I hear coming out of the voices in Congress.

I would ask for the judgment of the gentleman from California.

Mr. HUNTER. Well, I would say to my friend, I think he has made an ex-

cellent point. The way you bring down the price on any commodity is to increase the supply. And we have got a number of leaders in this House who have undertaken, if you look at their legislative record, undertaken a major campaign to stop the supply, to strangle the supply, to diminish the supply of petroleum production. And every time we take wells out of production or we don't produce, where we know we have known reserves, then we are handing part of our future to people in another part of the world who don't have America's best interests at heart.

Mr. KING of Iowa. As the gentleman knows, my view on this, and I think we would concur, is that I always say grow the size of the energy pie. Take every slice of that pie. Let's produce more domestic gas, more domestic diesel fuel and more cleaning burning coal. Let's keep wind energy going, and whatever we can do economically with solar, and expand the nuclear. I would expand the hydroelectric if I could do it and add the ethanol and biodiesel to it. I am sure I am leaving somebody out. But if you can find a way to produce energy and get it into the marketplace, biomass is another one.

We have got some closed systems coming now where we can take an ethanol plant and ship corn in there, feed the corn; the gluten or the dried distiller grain comes out and gets fed to cattle in the feedlot; it is converted to beef; and then the manure goes into biomass and creates the energy that drives the ethanol plant. It is a closed system.

We are developing systems now where we can take the byproduct and convert that into a high concentrated CO₂ environment and produce photosynthesis which traps the carbon gas out and turns it into cellulose and energy. We are only in the first phase of renewable energy production, and, as the technology develops, each piece of it as it comes forward to me is just fascinating how far we will be able to go.

Mr. HUNTER. I appreciate the gentleman letting me participate in this discussion. I appreciate his expertise. I know we will work together to be sure we increase the supply of energy and fuel. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. KING of Iowa. I thank the gentleman from California.

Mr. Speaker, I just hope that we all recognize that it is getting towards evening here in Washington, D.C., and there are some folks that do go off and go to bed or call it a day. The gentleman from California has worked diligently in this Congress for more than 20 years, and I recognize that and appreciate it.

As I move forward here on the energy policy, I wanted to reiterate this equation so that the point on ethanol efficiency, Mr. Speaker, does come home in a clear way. It is this: We have more corn available to us domestically now than we had as an average over any time in the last 20 years that I can come up with for records.

It works like this: In 2007, we produced 13.1 billion bushels of corn. I believe that is the largest crop ever. Out of that, we exported more corn than we had ever exported before, to foreign countries, just shipped it off in the form of grain. We exported 2.5 billion bushels of corn. That left us 10.6 billion bushels left, and out of that we took 3.2 billion bushels and produced ethanol with it, around 9 billion gallons of ethanol.

□ 2130

And, we get to add back in—that left 7.4 billion bushels for domestic consumption, which is real close to the average available for domestic consumption over the last 6 to 7 years, but half of the corn that went off to be produced into the 9 billion gallons of ethanol gets added back into the formula because it goes back into high-quality animal feed. So, we end up with an effective remaining amount of 9 billion bushels of corn into the domestic market here in the United States where the average previous years in the same decade comes to about 7.6 billion bushels of corn available for domestic consumption here in the United States.

So, we increase the supply of corn for domestic consumption even though we exported more corn than we had ever exported before, even though we produced 9 billion gallons of ethanol. And all of that, and we get the allegation made by the slightly informed that food prices are up because we have turned more corn into ethanol and that has hurt us. It has actually been a big help.

And what we can do is we can take that number and try to be logical about it and realize that the high price for food comes from two things. One is the cheap dollar; the cheap dollar that if we would take the price of energy up—if we would uphold the value of our dollar, shore up the value of our dollar, we could take perhaps one-third of that cost out. And so the gasoline that we are paying \$3.50 for today would be worth maybe about \$2.15 if we could shore up the value of the dollar. Corn that sold cash in Iowa last week for \$6 a bushel would be around \$4 a bushel. Say it is 55 or 60 cash today, it would take it down to below \$4 a bushel if we could take one-third of that out by shoring up the dollar. It would slow down some of our exports and it would change some of the equations, but it would add more stability into overall markets, and we should do that.

But there is a great big future for corn-based ethanol. And it is not a full solution by any means; and in fact, if I look at our corn production and look at our gasoline consumption, I have to think that somewhere in that 13 or 14 percent category is about where we end up, Mr. Speaker, of how much of the gasoline in this country we can substitute ethanol for. But that is a part of it. And if we can get 13 or 14 percent, it surely was worth it to start building wind chargers to produce electricity

when we thought we would have to cap that off at about 15 percent because it is not a stable enough supply to produce all of the energy that we could have. And that is a tremendous capital investment, Mr. Speaker.

So, this corn does have a future. And it has got a future in ethanol, and it is a future that needs to be sustained and maintained by this Congress. The blenders credits have got to stay in place, and we have got to maintain the import duty on Brazilian ethanol, because if we take that off, we will be building infrastructure to produce more ethanol in a place like Brazil. They can produce, they can build their own infrastructure with their own capital. We need to put capital back into the corn belt and into the ag areas of the United States so that we can build out this renewable energy infrastructure. If we do that, we will have an industry there that will provide renewable fuels over and over again.

And the people that argue that corn ethanol has a carbon footprint know the worst that you can say for it is it is carbon neutral, because the carbon that is sequestered by the photosynthesis is released, some of it, back in the atmosphere in the form of CO₂. But we can convert that CO₂ into a useful byproduct. We are in the process of developing it. I believe we have the science to do that. We don't have it up to the industrial proven model yet.

But I would argue this, Mr. Speaker: That about \$5.50 bushel a corn, by the time we process not quite 3 gallons a bushel out of that corn into ethanol we get about \$7 worth of ethanol out of that bushel of corn. And then when we add to that where through the fractionization process we crack out the germ, and out of the germ we take the oil. And the oil, some of it is there, it is for food grade consumption high quality oil that is worth about 85 cents a pound now. And then we get a lower grade oil that goes into biodiesel. And so we could take the corn oil, some goes to human consumption, some goes into biodiesel. That taking the corn oil out allows then the remaining grain to leave a residue for a dried distiller's grain that can then be digested by hogs and poultry because the oil is out. It is the oil that gives them a problem.

So if we do the fractionization process of the corn and take the germ out and take the oil out of the germ, when we are done, this is a more useful feed than what it is today, it is more versatile, because it can go to a lot of different livestock where right today cattle have an advantage. \$7 worth of ethanol and a bushel of corn.

By the time you add up the dried distiller grain feed amount, and by the time we take the CO₂ and convert that into a useful byproduct by using photosynthesis and converting it into biodiesel and the residue of that going back as a feed grain, we capture it all. We capture it all and roll it into something useful. And the short back-of-the-envelope calculation comes to

about \$7 worth of ethanol in a bushel of corn that is worth about \$5.50 and another \$7 worth of high-value product that we used to call byproduct.

When the byproduct gets to be worth more than the primary product, then the byproduct is no longer a byproduct. We could actually get that point. And, I had better not utter those words into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Mr. Speaker, but we have made significant progress. And the value added on this bushel of corn at about \$5.50 turns into about \$14 if we do this right, with no carbon footprint, a carbon plus instead of a carbon neutral. No downside on this. And it takes half the energy to produce a Btu in the form of ethanol out of the corn as compared to gasoline out of crude oil. It takes a lot less water.

And, by the way, the water that it takes to grow the crop, the folks that are critical, they will say they will charge all the water off as if we irrigated that corn. About 12 percent of the corn in America is irrigated; the balance of it is just God's watering it for us. And so it is going to rain anyway. If it is going to rain anyway on that field, you can't charge that water usage against ethanol production, Mr. Speaker. It defies common sense to see such logical contortions going on on the parts of the critics that will not stand down here and lay out fact against fact against fact.

Facts are, we have more corn available for domestic consumption than ever before. We have exported more corn than ever before. And, we have produced, we have turned more corn into ethanol than ever before. We have done all of those things all in the same year, and the inflated costs of food has not related in a significant way to the overall cost of grain. It is more related to the cheaper dollar than it is the supply and demand of the commodity corn.

And so, Mr. Speaker, I submit that we are on the right path, and we need to put more into the infrastructure and we need to produce more ethanol. And, if we can do that, we are helping to solve this problem. And, by the way, food prices appreciated by about 4.9 percent over the last year. Energy prices, Mr. Speaker, appreciated 18 percent over the last year. And a significant portion of the food price appreciation, the increase came because of energy price increases. The cost of energy has a lot more to do with the cost of food than the supply and demand of that food does, because an energy component goes into everything, the distribution and the processing of it, as well as the raising of it.

And so how high would gas be today if you took 9 billion gallons off the market as we put 9 billion of ethanol in? If you took that 9 billion gallons off the market, how much more costly would gasoline be today and how might it change the equation?

I will submit, Mr. Speaker, that food is cheaper today because of corn-based

ethanol. And I would submit that the energy we have today is cheaper because of corn-based ethanol; and, that this equation works out very good for the farm bill, too, because, for example, in 2005, there is a government program, a subsidy that has been there since the 1930s, it paid out in 2005 \$6.8 billion in counter-cyclical and loan deficiency payments. The counter-cyclical and LDPs paid out a total of \$6.5 billion in 2005. By 2006, the subsequent year, commodity prices were up high enough that that zeroed out. There was no \$6.8 billion going into counter-cyclicals and LDPs. And if you charge that all to ethanol demand—and I have already made the argument you don't. But if you do, if you sustain and you are on the side of this argument, Mr. Speaker, that it really was the consumption of corn through ethanol that drove up the price, then you have to also argue that the \$6.8 billion in farm subsidies disappeared because of ethanol.

So, at no cost to the taxpayer and a program that had been there in some form or another since the 1930s, we did pay back in that same year \$3 billion in blenders credit. So there was a net savings to the taxpayers of \$3.8 billion out of the \$6.8 billion that was subsidized the year before. That is pretty good, too.

I don't know of a way that we can do this calculation in a macro national perspective and not come up with corn-based ethanol as a great big plus for the country. It is more energy. It doesn't reduce our food supply, at least by the numbers that we have. Now, if we go overboard, it can. And it doesn't taken away from our export of corn. We still exported more corn than ever before. We have more corn available on the market. It takes about half as much energy to produce a Btu out of corn at the ethanol plant as it does to produce a Btu of energy in the form of gasoline at a refinery out of crude oil.

All of these numbers that I produced here are based in fact, and I can anchor the foundation numbers down by laboratory numbers, Mr. Speaker. This is a picture of the real facts, and I challenge those folks who disagree to come up with something that is solid, a calculation. Give me something that is empirical. Don't give me your feelings, don't give me your senses. Don't say, gee, I just feel this or I feel that. Look at the whole picture, look at the big picture, but look at the composition of the numbers, build a formula there, and see what it does for America. We are on the right track, not the wrong track.

I recognize that the gentleman is here from Maryland who has the next special order. In that case, and out of deference to him, I would, Mr. Speaker, thank you for your attention here tonight and I yield back the balance of my time.

THE MIDDLE EAST

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MCNERNEY). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. GILCHREST) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. GILCHREST. I thank the Speaker for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, tonight I would like to talk to you and the American people about the troubled Middle East.

American troops are serving in Iraq and Afghan as we speak. They are stunningly competent and, to some extent, they are implementing a policy that is flawed.

America is behind the troops. Members of Congress are behind the troops. We want to bring independence, a sense of freedom and justice, certainly democracy to this troubled area of the world. But I think in order for us, the policymakers, to develop a policy that is as competent as those troops are competent that carry out the policy, then there is some knowledge that we need to acquire. So, what I would like to do tonight is talk a little bit about the present crisis in Iraq and the way forward.

In order to understand the present crisis in Iraq, and the way forward, which, yes, we can say, can lead to stability, can lead to peace, respect for the rule of law, human dignity, justice and democracy, we need to acquire information to have a better understanding of that region and the present crisis.

So what I would like to do is give a brief history of the Cold War and the United States' involvement in that, during the Cold War what was going on in the Middle East, touch on the present crisis that we are now seeing since 2003, and then, how do we solve this particular situation?

Before I get into that information, I would like to share with you, Mr. Speaker, and Americans where in part some of this information I will give to you tonight has come from. And so I would like the listeners, Mr. Speaker, and I will say this twice during my address this evening. I would like them to get a piece of paper and a pencil, because I want them to write down the name of some of these books. There are not a lot of books. I am not talking about 100 books or 50 books or 20 books, although there are many out there. I am just talking about 10 books that can be easily read in a relatively short period of time.

And what I would ask the readers to do, or in this case if they read the books, the listeners, out across the landscape: You support the troops. You may have a son, a daughter, a father, a brother, a cousin, some relative, a friend in Iraq or Afghanistan, and you want America to rise up and support the troops. You want America to rise up and have a shared sacrifice in this huge endeavor that we are now involved with.

□ 2145

But you are not quite sure how to do that. We are not collecting tin cans for the troops. We are not storing or sending cans of food. We are not using less gasoline, although we should, to support the troops. What specifically are we doing as individual Americans to support the troops and understand the policy in which those troops are implemented?

I would suggest, Mr. Speaker, that the listeners starting tonight turn the television off every night for as long as it takes to really understand, deeply understand the policy in Iraq. Understand the history, the intrigue, the violence, the complexity of the troubled area, the Middle East. So I would ask the listeners, you might have some interesting shows you like to watch occasionally, but I would ask the listeners to put on your calendars two hours every night you are not going to watch television. What are you going to do for those two hours, you are going to support the troops. How are you going to support the troops? You are going to become knowledgeable in the issues in which the troops are involved. You are going to become knowledgeable in the issues that Members of Congress should know and debate and come to some resolution on.

Here are the books. Number one, "A Letter to America," very easily read. It is a message of hope through difficult times by a former Senator from Oklahoma, David Boren. "A Letter to America." Pick it up. You can read it in a day, but it will take a few nights. Take a look at it. You will have some understanding where this Nation is right now in the 21st century.

The next volume is a paperback by James Baker and Lee Hamilton, you've heard of it, Iraq Study Group. "The Iraq Study Group Report" gives a clear vision on the way forward in Iraq. Take a look at it. It is not very long either.

The next one is a little heavy reading by Thomas Ricks. It is called "Fiasco." It gets deep into the complexities of why there are still continuing difficulties in the war in Iraq especially.

Just a thought about that. A few years ago we saw "Mission Accomplished" on a huge aircraft carrier out in the Pacific Ocean. I am not going to make a comment about whether "Mission Accomplished" was appropriate or not appropriate, but there was a remark by a defense intelligence analyst right at that moment who said Israel won the war with the Arabs in 1967 in 6 days. They won that war in 6 days in 1967. Forty-one years later the struggle continues. Read "Fiasco." It gives you some sense of the problems and difficulties and mistakes that the policymakers made in Iraq that the troops, stunningly competent, are trying to implement.

The next is by a retired marine general, Tony Zinni, "The Battle for Peace." The struggle for peace in the Middle East will take everything we have: a strong military, a strong and

vibrant intelligence apparatus. But the thing that is vital in this particular conflict is dialogue, consensus, talking to your friends and foes.

Number five is "Violent Politics" by William Polk. He worked for President Kennedy and President Johnson. "Violent Politics." It is not what we see here arguing. "Violent Politics" is about wars of insurgency when there is no dialogue and diplomacy has failed and small groups of people supported by the population in the region continue to fight. It will give you an understanding what we are going through right now in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Number six is by Trita Parsi, "Treacherous Alliance." It is a fascinating book because it shows for 30 years the Israelis and the Iranians, the Iranians who are Persian, not Arab, speak Farsi, not Arabic, the Iranians had a quiet alliance where they traded oil for technology with Israel. Israel was allied with Iran mainly because they had similar enemies. Israel was an enemy of the Soviet Union; so was Iran. Israel was an enemy of many Arab countries; so was Iran.

Book number seven, "All the Shah's Men" by Stephen Kinzer. It is about Iran and its relationship with Britain and the United States in the 20th century, mainly the first half of the 20th century, where Britain and the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, which is now British Petroleum, extracted huge amounts of natural resources, mostly oil and natural gas from Iran without the Iranians knowing or being able to know how much was leaving and how much they were being paid. It is a fascinating book about how the United States made a mistake during the Cold War in its relationship with Iran which festered until 1979.

Number eight is "The Silence of the Rational Center" by Halper and Clarke. Scholars and diplomats from great institutions in the United States, universities, including retired diplomats, speak out about what America needs to do in the 21st century, and "The Silence of the Rational Center" are those people who have great information, have years and decades of experience in different areas of the world, especially the Middle East, have been silent about a better way, more and better sophisticated policy. It is not just enough to know something, you have to act on that knowledge.

Number nine is a fascinating book by a man called Archimedes Patti who was in the OSS. That is the Office of Strategic Services, the forerunner of the CIA, who met Ho Chi Minh in 1945 because Ho Chi Minh and the Viet Minh were helping the United States track Japanese troop movements in Southeast Asia because the French were not willing to do that for the United States. And Ho Chi Minh talked and discussed issues, including the wording of the soon-to-be-independent Vietnam about their declaration of independence which Ho Chi Minh, talking with Archimedes Patti, wanted it

to be very similar to our Declaration of Independence, much of the words written by Thomas Jefferson. The name of the book is "Why Vietnam?" It gives you an understanding of the intrigue, the complexity, the foreign policy issues, the conflict issues, the economic issues, the criminal issues, the deception that was perpetrated in that region of the world back in 1945. The book goes from 1940 to 1954, "Why Vietnam?" Archimedes Patti. It will give you a fascinating understanding, along with these other books, about the intrigue, the complexity, the violence and sometimes the tragedy of how these very complex issues are handled.

The last book, Mr. Speaker, is called "Human Options" by Norman Cousins. That is a book about choices and how we make them, how we make decisions.

I use that as the last book because I want to start our discussion tonight with two quotes from Norman Cousins' book "Human Options." The first quote is: "Knowledge is the solvent for danger." Knowledge is the solvent for danger. The more you know when you are going into any situation, you are going to benefit from that knowledge. Preparation, understanding, to develop a policy, is so critical.

The troops in Iraq are stunningly competent because they are prepared. They are trained. They learn things. They know things. The integration of integrity with their fellow soldiers, and now their fellow Iraqi soldiers, and the Iraqi citizens. The integration of integrity happens because they are prepared.

How prepared are the policymakers in their knowledge, in their information, in their ability to integrate their integrity with their fellow members in the international community? You as American citizens can be knowledgeable and help resolve this conflict.

The next quote by Norman Cousins in his book "Human Options" is: "History is a vast early warning system." I have heard for a long time about many conflicts we have experienced. Even in Iraq, I hear many of the people in the administration who are retired or have left the administration say, "If we only knew this in 2003." "Well, if we knew that, we would have done things differently." I have heard that about the Vietnam war for decades.

"Well, if we knew back then what we know now, things would be different." That is a bad excuse. That is a bad excuse because if you are knowledgeable, if you are prepared, if you want to know things, if you had a broad enough mind to view the majesty of this complex world in all of its dimensions, you would understand that hindsight is nothing more than understanding history to make better decisions.

Rudyard Kipling, a British writer whose son was killed tragically in World War II in northern France resolved his sadness by saying this: "Why did young men die because old men lied?"

We can take Robert Kipling's phrase to try to heal his soul because of the

loss of his son, we can paraphrase it today and say: Old men should talk before they send young men to die. And that is what we should do.

And it is not just talking to Maliki or our friends in Iraq, it is talking to all of the different factions in Iraq, whether they be Sunni or Shia or Kurds or any of the other factions that are there. And we should also be talking through dialogue with the Iranians and the Syrians. We should be talking to the full length and breadth of people in the Middle East because if we just focus on a few over-simplified issues in Iraq, the resolution will be long in coming.

The Israelis won the 1967 war in 6 days; 41 years later that conflict is still a tragedy.

Let's take a look at the Cold War and some of the incidents that occurred after World War II. We finally resolved the Korean War, at least to continue in a dialogue for decades, but only after 54,000 Americans were killed. And many, many more wounded.

In the 1950s, Khrushchev said on a number of occasions, the leader of the Soviet Union, pointing his finger at Americans in the U.N., in speeches around the Soviet Union and speeches around Eastern Europe he said we will bury the United States. Well, what was President Eisenhower's response to Khrushchev's volatile rhetoric? President Eisenhower invited Khrushchev to the United States to have a dialogue. They visited cities and the suburbs. They visited factories and farms. They went throughout the United States, and what was the sense of Americans when Eisenhower invited Khrushchev to the United States, our number one enemy with nuclear weapons pointing at America, what was America's response to Eisenhower inviting the enemy of this country here? America welcomed Premier Khrushchev. America was relieved because now we can have a dialogue and learn about each other. America responded in a positive fashion because they were sick of war, World War II and Korea on its heels.

When Kennedy found out that there were deployable nuclear weapons in Cuba pointing at the United States, 90 miles from our shore, those nuclear missiles were minutes from the United States. What was Kennedy's response? Let's quickly talk to the Soviets and see if we can resolve this issue without war and conflict, without bloodletting. Let's resolve the issue, and the issue was resolved and the missiles were removed.

Communist China Mao Zedong said many times it would be worth for half the population of China to die in a war with the United States as long as we could get rid of the United States. This was an enemy of the United States.

What was America's reaction when Nixon went to China? They were relieved. They were glad. The bloodshed, the violence, the sadness, the tragedy is avoided through a dialogue, through a conversation by learning how to see

the world through the Chinese eyes, by learning how to see the world through Khrushchev's eyes, by learning how to see the world in all of its complexities and difficulties.

□ 2200

The other conflict that I have to mention here, Mr. Speaker, is the Vietnam war. 58,000 Americans dead, well over 100,000 wounded. A million Vietnamese dead.

Ho Chi Minh, a small, frail, sickly old Vietnamese man, who wanted sovereignty from the French; he wanted his independence. He was tired of French colonial rule. He was tired of Japanese oppression. He didn't want the British to come in and colonize another section of Southeast Asia. He wanted his freedom.

Because of that misunderstanding, because we didn't go to Hanoi and talk to Ho Chi Minh; some Americans did but it never worked its way up to the White House, we had a conflict, we had tragedy, we had war. We had a problem.

The present crisis in Iraq, how do we see it?

Well, in the Middle East, three great religions, for centuries, these religions have lived together. They've shared joy and they've shared sorrow. For centuries there was laughter or there was blood letting. There was community or there was death. It's a complicated place.

Faith, to each of these three world religions, Judaism, Christianity and Islam, is an important part of everyday life throughout the Middle East. They all come together in Jerusalem. They all have an important part of that city that emanates throughout the Middle East.

In the Middle East, oil exports are the economy. Economic viability depends upon oil exports. Because of the war in Iraq, because of the crash of the Soviet Union, because of the war in Afghanistan, because of other problems, the geopolitical balance of power is fractured right now.

Who will be more influential in the Middle East? It's not going to be Europe. They pretty much left there after World War II. Most of the countries do not want Russia. They feel that Russia, an atheistic country, has not found its soul yet. The Middle Eastern countries don't want China to have that much influence, because China, they know, is after the resources.

The geopolitical balance of power is fractured. Who still do the countries of the Middle East look to for resolving this and creating a better climate for a balance of power for the economy, for an integrated security alliance similar to what we have in NATO or SEATO or the Organization of American States or the European Union or other places? They still look to the United States.

And the world is still waiting for the United States, since the focus of the Middle East came after 9/11. They're still waiting to see how we can not

only resolve the issues between the Shiia, the Sunnis and the Kurds in Iraq, but how do we bring all of the Middle East together.

How do we separate to the American mind the difference between the Shiia, the Kurds, the Sunnis, al Qaeda, and the Taliban and Wahhabism? They're all very different forms of Islam.

The Iranians, for example, are bitter enemies of al Qaeda and the Taliban. The Wahhabis, mostly in Saudi Arabia, are not bitter enemies of al Qaeda or the Taliban. The government of Saudi Arabia may keep them at arm's length, but many of the Sunnis in Saudi Arabia, have a relationship with the Taliban and al Qaeda. Virtually nobody in Iran has a relationship with al Qaeda and the Taliban. A pretty complex place, the Middle East. The more we know about it the better able we are to deal with it.

The war in Iraq, it's a war. There's a war in Iraq. But ask this question. Where are the munitions factories that we can bomb like we did in Germany and Japan and Italy? Where are the large troop concentrations that can be decimated? Where are the supply lines that we can cut off?

It's not that kind of war it's a war of insurgency. It's a war of a few radical people who are supported by the vast population, by their tribes, by their relatives, by people across the vast reaches of the Middle East. Political violence is an insurgency, but it's a different kind of war.

The present crisis in Iraq has taken 34,000 American casualties. What does that mean? That means over 4,000 Americans are dead. Over 30,000 Americans are wounded and have lost limbs, have lost good brain function, cannot walk, have Post-traumatic Stress Syndrome.

And what's post-traumatic stress? It's when you see pretty violent acts. Someone is blown up, someone is shot and killed. You pull the trigger of your rifle and someone dies. That's a pretty traumatic act. Do you forget that? Not for the rest of your life. You come home and that image comes in the forefront of your thoughts because of a smell, a sound, something you see, something you feel that will be with you for the rest of your life.

Post-traumatic Stress Syndrome is virtually 100 percent of anybody in combat. Now, most are able to digest that and deal with it and go about their daily lives and compartmentalize those horrific incidents, but many are not.

Over \$600 billion so far in the war in Iraq. How engaged are the Americans in the war in Iraq? How often do they discuss the issue at the mall, at the movies, at the grocery store, at parties? How often is this issue discussed?

There's a sense of apprehension about the war in Iraq. Americans are disturbed. They want it to end. But how engaged are we in the war in Iraq?

There's global dissent. We look around the globe, we look at many of

our allies, many of them said we should not have gone in to Iraq. One of our strongest allies in the Middle East, Saudi Arabia, says that the U.S. war in Iraq is illegal. That's really interesting.

But we should understand, do we ever question them about that? Do we have a dialogue with the Saudis about that?

The present crisis is still very difficult. Now, should we leave Iraq right now? Should we send all the U.S. troops down into Basra, bring Navy ships up there, load them on the ships and bring them home? Should we do that right away?

Well, look what happened in Mogadishu some years ago when the Americans left. It was chaos. There was rape, murder and mayhem. The criminals took over. We don't want another Mogadishu in Iraq. So we shouldn't leave right away. We need to be responsible about how we deal with it. But as we gradually pull out, how many American troops do we leave?

And unless some of the politics are resolved, both in Iraq and the Middle East, we may have another French Dien Bien Phu, 1954 Vietnam, when the French pulled most of their troops out of Vietnam and the last remaining troops were surrounded by the Vietnamese, and many Frenchmen lost their lives.

General Petraeus says there's no military solution in Iraq. Is there a political solution under the present circumstances?

If we just look at Iraq, like many of us do, just Iraq, there is no political solution and there is no military solution. If we just look at Iraq in isolation, that's simply not going to happen.

What we need to do is look at Iraq in the broader context of the Middle East. American troops right now, it's understood, are the skeletal structure upon which the entire Iraqi society depends, so you can't pull them out. But how long do they stay?

And if there's no military solution, how do you deal with this politically?

Well, the first step is to understand the Middle East and what drives radicals to run to al Qaeda or the Taliban. What drives Arab and Islamic fundamentalists to hate the United States?

The Palestinian Israeli question has been going on since 1948. Palestine was created, Israel was created out of the region, the former British protectorate, Palestine, after the war, after the Holocaust, when the world felt that they needed to do something for the Jews who lost six million of their fellow citizens during World War II in Nazi concentration camps.

Since 1948, the Arabs and the Palestinians, the Palestinians and the Israelis have been fighting, since 1948. So the United States needs to engage, as we've started, but more fully engage as an objective arbitrator of the conflict between the Palestinians and the Israelis. And the Arabs need to see

that. We need to do that because it's the right thing to do. It's the ethical thing to do because both the Israelis and the Palestinians need and justly deserve peace, the rule of law and to raise their children out of harm's way. But the Arab world needs to see the United States working on this issue in a very objective fashion.

And we need to engage the Saudis, because the Saudis are Sunnis, and there are Sunnis in Iraq, but there are Shias in Iraq. And the Saudis have some fear that Iraq, if left unattended, can become an Iranian satellite. And the Iranians are Shias. This sounds all pretty confusing, but it shouldn't be confusing at this point. It's year 2008. The war started in 2002. And so Americans need to be more engaged in some of these issues.

The Saudis need to know that Iraq is not going to become an Iranian satellite. And we need to assure them that that's the case so they can work constructively with the Sunnis in Iraq.

The Iraqis need to know that the Americans aren't going to abandon them. But they also need to know we're not going to stay there for 100 years, certainly. They also need to know that militarily, this conflict which is an insurgency, is not going to be won unless there's a political solution.

And the Iranians, who we should talk to, need to know that the United States, eventually, will become one of their allies, and the United States will help the Iranians find a way to stabilize the mess in Iraq.

Eisenhower said that there were three things the United States needed to do in order to remain strong. Three. We needed a strong military, we needed the best intelligence of the world we could gather in the world, and the third leg of that stool was consensus and dialogue.

We have the strongest military in the world. We should not be afraid to talk to anybody. We have the best intelligence in the world, especially if it is objectively analyzed. But we need to engage our enemies, as well as our friends, in a conversation, in a dialogue.

When President Kennedy invited Khrushchev to the United States to talk about issues, this was not Chamberlain telling Hitler he could have a piece of Czechoslovakia. This was not a compromise that started World War II. When Kennedy brought Khrushchev to the United States it was from a position of strength, and it was a dialogue and we avoided tragedy and death and suffering. Eisenhower and Kennedy, Richard Nixon did the same thing.

We should talk to the Iranians without any preconditions. This is not giving in to the Iranians. This is showing the rest of the world who the Iranians are and what the Iranians are really like. The United States is bargaining from a position of power.

Consensus and dialogue are the third leg of that three-legged stool. Knowl-

edge is the solvent for danger. Knowledge. The more information we have, the better off we're going to be.

History is a vast early warning system. We know the things that have worked in the past. Kennedy and Khrushchev, it worked. It avoided war. The collapse eventually of the Soviet Union.

We did not have a dialogue with Ho Chi Minh. And if we did we could have avoided the tragedy of the war in Vietnam.

And what is our policy in Iraq now based on? What do you, the American people, understand our policy to be?

Let's take a look at Sam Rayburn, former Speaker of the House. Sam said, "Any mule can kick a barn door down, but it takes a carpenter to build one."

We need carpenters to build the dialog, the integration of integrity with all the world's peoples.

What did Rudyard Kipling say so many years ago when his son tragically died in Northern France? "Why did young men die? Because old men lied?"

And why did old men lie? Maybe they just didn't know enough.

To paraphrase Rudyard Kipling today, old people should talk. Old people should be carpenters, not mules, carpenters, before they send young men, young women, young people to die.

□ 2215

The landscape of human history is tragically filled with conflicts. What is the main reason for these conflicts? Ignorance, arrogance, and dogma. What does that combination lead to? I'm right and you are wrong. Monstrous certainty. Can you shoot your way through that? How do you get through that, that maze of complexity, of arrogance, ignorance, and dogma?

You replace ignorance with knowledge, and you do that with knowledge and you do a consensus and you do it with dialogue. Arrogance is replaced with humility. And generally, the more someone knows, the more humble they are. And you get rid of dogma with tolerance.

We need a diplomatic surge in the Middle East. That diplomatic surge means that we have the best and the brightest diplomats in the world right here and now employed in the State Department, employed in the Defense Department, retired diplomats, retired generals. And they can integrate themselves throughout the Middle East. They can talk about an economic alliance, a security alliance. They can talk about exchanging all kinds of medical and scientific and economic information.

We need to continue and let the world know the drawdown in a responsible, strategic fashion of our military presence in the Middle East. Work for reconciliation among the different factions in the Middle East by integrating those factions with a broader Middle East.

Let's look at some examples of the past.

1941. United States, Britain, and a number of other countries right at the very early stages of World War II signed something called the Atlantic Alliance. And what was the Atlantic Alliance? It was a commitment, an agreement among many countries around the world that people would live in freedom, they would work for economic prosperity in all the world, they would make sure people would live free of fear and want, and the list goes on.

The Atlantic Charter. What did the Atlantic Charter lead to? It led to the union of the many regions of the world, led to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. It led to the Southeast Asian Treaty Organization. It led to the Organization of American States in Latin America. It was a commitment of nations that they would work together to have dialogue and rule out the use of force.

You know what Ho Chi Minh said about the Atlantic Charter in 1942 when he heard about it? He said, I hope it applies to Asians, meaning Vietnamese, because they were still under the iron fist of the Japanese and the French. You know what Ho Chi Minh said in 1945? He said, I guess the Atlantic Charter doesn't apply to the Vietnamese people.

To me, that's pretty sad.

1975, we signed the Helsinki Accords. A number of countries around Europe, including the Soviet Union and most of Eastern European countries except Albania. Helsinki Accords said basically the same thing as the Atlantic Charter: We would respect the integrity of the territory of all of the states that signed this; it would be peaceful settlement of disputes and not armed interaction; we would not interfere in the internal affairs of other countries; there would be freedom of thought, conscious, and religion; there would be equal rights for people.

The Helsinki Accords, 1975, what did that do to oppressed people in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union when they found out that the Soviet Union signed that? They gradually, the courageous ones, began to rise up, and eventually you saw the collapse of the Soviet Union. People in the Ukraine or Georgia or Poland or Czechoslovakia or the former Yugoslavia, they saw the Helsinki Accords, and they had a goal that they would reach out to. So the Helsinki Accords gradually integrated like-minded, peace-loving, freedom-loving people to begin exercising their God-given rights.

1949, one last comment about the past. The Geneva Conventions. The international community came together and signed the Geneva Conventions about the treatment of people in conflicts. Not just uniformed soldiers. This international agreement applied to anybody that was captured on a battlefield and how that person was to be treated and how they were to be interrogated and how they were to be imprisoned, and it was based on some pretty

fundamental human rights. An international agreement.

So people from around the world see these things. They understand that there is hope; the way forward is to have knowledge. It's to understand the complexity of this world and see it in all its vast, deep dimensions. Don't look at the world through a bent straw. That is the way too many of us see it. There's vast opportunities.

I'm going to quote from a book that you don't have to read, it's called "The Ascent of Man" by Jacob Bronowski. It's actually a book about the evolution of science and civilizations going back to pre-history. But there's a chapter in there about World War II. Many of Jacob Bronowski's relatives died in concentration camps in Auschwitz, and Bronowski has a paragraph: there are two parts to the human dilemma, one is the belief that the end justifies the means, that push-button philosophy that delivered deafness to suffering that has become the monster in the war machine.

When we go to the mall, do we think about the war in Iraq, or is it silent to us? Do we have conversations at the dinner table about the war in Iraq, or do we talk about other things? Do we ever talk about the war in Iraq, or do we have a sense of deliberate deafness to suffering? Do we think the war machine is going to take care of it?

The other aspect of human dilemma is that too often, tragically, nations become a nation of ghosts, obedient ghosts or tortured ghosts. That means you're not a whole human being. You go through life almost imperceptible. What is your value? What is your contribution? How do you make that contribution?

So those two dilemmas can be resolved by listening to the sound and the voices of tragedy and then becoming knowledgeable and begin learning that you, too, can do something.

So over the next few months, turn the television off. You want to commit yourself to helping the soldiers in Iraq, the people of Iraq, the people in Afghanistan, the tragedy of human history that plagues us so often where there is ignorance, arrogance, and dogma. "A Letter to America," David Boren. "A Letter to America." "The Iraq Study Group," James Baker, Lee Hamilton; "Fiasco," Thomas Ricks; "The Battle for Peace," Tony Zinni; "Violent Politics," William Polk; "Traitorous Alliance," Trita Parsi; "All the Shah's Men," Steve Kinzer; "The Silence of the Rational Center," Halper and Clarke; "Why Vietnam?" by Archimedes Patti; "Human Options," Norman Cousins.

I wish you well in your reading.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

THE SPEAKER pro tempore. Does the gentleman yield the balance of his time?

Mr. GILCREST. I yield the balance of my time.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. DOGGETT (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today and the balance of the week on account of medical reasons.

Mr. HIGGINS (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for April 23 through May 1 on account of a family emergency.

Mrs. DRAKE (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of touring Suffolk, Virginia, and other areas in southeast Virginia affected by yesterday's tornadoes.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. WOOLSEY) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. ALLEN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SPACE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFazio, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. POE) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. POE, for 5 minutes, May 5 and 6.

Mr. WELLER of Illinois, for 5 minutes, today and April 30.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina, for 5 minutes, May 5 and 6.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, today, April 30, and May 1.

Mr. FORBES, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. WESTMORELAND, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, for 5 minutes, April 30 and May 1.

Mr. FLAKE, for 5 minutes, April 30.

SENATE BILL AND CONCURRENT RESOLUTIONS REFERRED

A bill and a concurrent resolution of the Senate of the following titles were taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 2829. An Act to make technical corrections to section 1244 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008, which provides special immigrant status for certain Iraqis, and for other purposes; the Committee on the Judiciary.

S. Con. Res. 74. Concurrent resolution honoring the Prime Minister of Ireland, Bertie Ahern, for his service to the people of Ireland and to the world and welcoming the Prime Minister to the United States; the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Ms. Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 3196. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 20 Sussex Street in Port Jervis, New York,

as the "E. Arthur Gray Post Office Building".

H.R. 3468. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1704 Weeksville Road in Elizabeth City, North Carolina, as the "Dr. Clifford Bell Jones, Sr. Post Office".

H.R. 3532. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 5815 McLeod Street in Lula, Georgia, as the "Private Johnathon Millican Lula Post Office".

H.R. 3720. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 424 Clay Avenue in Waco, Texas, as the "Army PFC Juan Alonso Covarrubias Post Office Building".

H.R. 3803. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3100 Cashwell Drive in Goldsboro, North Carolina, as the "John Henry Wooten, Sr. Post Office Building".

H.R. 3936. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 116 Helen Highway in Cleveland, Georgia, as the "Sgt. Jason Harkins Post Office Building".

H.R. 3988. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3701 Altamesa Boulevard in Fort Worth, Texas, as the "Master Sergeant Kenneth N. Mack Post Office Building".

H.R. 4166. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 701 East Copeland Drive in Lebanon, Missouri, as the "Steve W. Allee Carrier Annex".

H.R. 4203. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3035 Stone Mountain Street in Lithonia, Georgia, as the "Specialist Jamaal RaShard Addison Post Office Building".

H.R. 4211. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 725 Roanoke Avenue in Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina, as the "Judge Richard B. Allsbrook Post Office".

H.R. 4240. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 10799 West Alameda Avenue in Lakewood, Colorado, as the "Felix Sparks Post Office Building".

H.R. 4286. An act to award a congressional gold medal to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi in recognition of her courageous and unwavering commitment to peace, nonviolence, human rights, and democracy in Burma.

H.R. 4454. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3050 Hunsinger Lane in Louisville, Kentucky, as the "Iraq and Afghanistan Fallen Military Heroes of Louisville Memorial Post Office Building", in honor of the servicemen and women from Louisville, Kentucky, who died in service during Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

H.R. 5135. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 201 West Greenway Street in Derby, Kansas, as the "Sergeant Jamie O. Maugans Post Office Building".

H.R. 5220. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3800 SW. 185th Avenue in Beaverton, Oregon, as the "Major Arthur Chin Post Office Building".

H.R. 5400. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 160 East Washington Street in Chagrin Falls, Ohio, as the "Sgt. Michael M. Kashkoush Post Office Building".

H.R. 5472. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2650 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Street, Indianapolis, Indiana, as the "Julia M. Carson Post Office Building".

H.R. 5489. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located

at 6892 Main Street in Gloucester, Virginia, as the "Congresswoman JoAnn S. Davis Post Office".

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 24 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, April 30, 2008, at 10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

6286. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Tuberculosis in Cattle and Bison; State and Zone Designations; Minnesota [Docket No. APHS-2008-0037] received April 10, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

6287. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Lead; Renovation, Repair, and Painting Program [EPA-HQ-OPPT-2005-0049; FRL-8355-7] (RIN: 2070-AC83) received April 11, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6288. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; New York [Docket No. EPA-R02-OAR-2008-0011, FRL-8554-8] received April 11, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6289. A letter from the Legal Advisor/Chief, Wireless Telecom. Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — In the Matter of Biennial Regulatory Review — Amendment of Parts 1, 22, 24, 27 and 90 to Streamline and Harmonize Various Rules Affecting Wireless Radio Services [WT Docket No. 03-264] received April 15, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6290. A letter from the Director, Office of Enforcement, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Revisions to Forms, Statements, and Reporting Requirements for Natural Gas Pipelines [RM07-9-000] received April 10, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6291. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Conduct of New Reactor Licensing Proceedings; Final Policy Statement — received April 18, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6292. A letter from the Assistant Secretary Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Determination and Memorandum of Justification on the provision of financial assistance for Sudan; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6293. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Secretary, OFCCP, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's final rule — Nondiscrimination and Affirmative Action Obligations of Contractors and Subcontractors Regarding Protected Veterans (RIN:

1215-AB65) received April 9, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6294. A letter from the Assistant Secretary — Land and Minerals Management, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Outer Continental Shelf Regulations-Technical Corrections [Docket ID: MMS-2007-OMM-0070] (RIN: 1010-AD49) received April 15, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

6295. A letter from the Assistant Secretary — Land and Minerals Management, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Incorporate American Petroleum Institute Hurricane Bulletins [Docket ID: MMS-2007-OMM-0060] (RIN: 1010-AD48) received April 15, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

6296. A letter from the Acting Director Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Shallow-Water Species Fishery by Vessels Using Trawl Gear in the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No. 071106671-8010-02] (RIN: 0648-XG28) received April 10, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

6297. A letter from the Acting Director Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pollock in Statistical Area 610 of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No. 071106671-8010-02] (RIN: 0648-XG08) received April 10, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

6298. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Operations, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Prohibited Species Bycatch Management [Docket No. 070816465-8008-02] (RIN: 0648-AV96) received April 10, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

6299. A letter from the Acting Director Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Catcher Vessels Using Trawl Gear in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No. 071106673-8011-02] (RIN: 0648-XG17) received April 10, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

6300. A letter from the Director Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pollock in Statistical Area 630 in the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No. 071106671-8010-02] (RIN: 0648-XG09) received April 10, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

6301. A letter from the Director Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Vessels Catching Pacific Cod for Processing by the Offshore Component in the Western Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No. 071106671-8010-02] (RIN: 0648-XG12) received April 10, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

6302. A letter from the Acting Director Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, Na-

tional Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Reallocation of Pacific Cod in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No. 070213033-7033-01] (RIN: 0648-XF95) received April 10, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

6303. A letter from the Acting Director Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pollock in Statistical Area 610 of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No. 071106671-8010-02] (RIN: 0648-XG19) received April 10, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

6304. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Update for Weighted Average Interest Rates, Yield Curves, and Segment Rates [Notice 2008-45] received April 9, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6305. A letter from the Program Manager, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Medicare and Medicaid Programs; Conditions for Coverage for End-Stage Renal Disease Facilities [CMS-3818-F] (RIN: 0938-AG82) received April 8, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 or rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. OBERSTAR: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. House Resolution 964. Resolution to promote the safe operation of 15-passenger vans; with amendments (Rept. 110-608). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. RAHALL: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 3490. A bill to transfer administrative jurisdiction of certain Federal lands from the Bureau of Land Management to the Bureau of Indian Affairs, to take such lands into trust for Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians of the Tuolumne Rancheria, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 110-609). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. RAHALL: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 3522. A bill to ratify a conveyance of a portion of the Jicarilla Apache Reservation to Rio Arriba County, State of New Mexico, pursuant to the settlement of litigation between the Jicarilla Apache Nation and Rio Arriba County, State of New Mexico, to authorize issuance of a patent for said lands, and to change the exterior boundary of the Jicarilla Apache Reservation accordingly, and for other purposes (Rept. 110-610). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. RAHALL: Committee on Natural Resources. S. 2457. An act to provide for extensions of leases of certain land by Mashantucket Pequot (Western) Tribe (Rept. 110-611). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Ms. SLAUGHTER: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 1156. Resolution providing for consideration of the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 493) to prohibit discrimination on the basis of genetic information with respect to health insurance and employment

(Rept. 110-612). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. MCGOVERN: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 1157. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5522) to require the Secretary of Labor to issue interim and final occupational safety and health standards regarding worker exposure to combustible dust, and for other purposes (Rept. 110-613). Referred to the House Calendar.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. FLAKE (for himself, Mr. DEAL of Georgia, Mr. ROHRBACHER, Mr. BROUN of Georgia, and Mr. STARK):

H.R. 5911. A bill to repeal certain incentives and subsidies for renewable fuels; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MCHUGH (for himself, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia, Mrs. CAPPS, and Mr. MORAN of Virginia):

H.R. 5912. A bill to amend title 39, United States Code, to make cigarettes and certain other tobacco products nonmailable, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California (for herself, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mr. COHEN, and Mr. GRIJALVA):

H.R. 5913. A bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to provide for service of process over foreign nationals in cases involving defective products causing injury in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KANJORSKI:

H.R. 5914. A bill to clarify the authority of the Federal Financing Bank to purchase loans guaranteed under part B of title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California:

H.R. 5915. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require motor vehicle operators transporting security sensitive material in commerce to obtain a transportation security card from the Secretary of Homeland Security, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. BERMAN (for himself, Ms. ROSELEHTINEN, Mr. SHERMAN, and Mr. MANZULLO):

H.R. 5916. A bill to reform the administration of the Arms Export Control Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. KNOLLENBERG (for himself, Mr. UPTON, Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, and Mr. MCCOTTER):

H.R. 5917. A bill to provide for the coordination of efforts in the development of viable efficient alternative fuel technologies; to the Committee on Science and Technology, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, Oversight and Government Reform, Energy and Commerce, and Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BARROW:

H.R. 5918. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish a nationwide

health insurance purchasing pool for small businesses and the self-employed that would offer a choice of private health plans and make health coverage more affordable, predictable, and accessible; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Education and Labor, Ways and Means, and Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD:

H.R. 5919. A bill to make technical corrections regarding the Newborn Screening Saves Lives Act of 2007; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BROUN of Georgia:

H.R. 5920. A bill to direct the Attorney General to establish a system of background checks for employers and employees of the electronic life safety and security system installation and monitoring industry, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California (for herself and Mr. GOODLATTE):

H.R. 5921. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to eliminate the per country level for employment-based immigrants and to end the spill-over of unused immigrant visa numbers between employment-based and family-sponsored categories; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MORAN of Virginia:

H.R. 5922. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide that a Federal employee may use up to 2 days of sick leave a year in the performance of community service; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. SHADEGG (for himself, Mrs. MUSGRAVE, Mr. WAMP, Mr. AKIN, Mr. CAMPBELL of California, Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee, Mr. KINGSTON, Mr. GINGREY, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. ISSA, Mr. PENCE, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. FORTUÑO, Mr. PITTS, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mr. SOUDER, and Mr. FEENEY):

H.R. 5923. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow individuals a refundable and advanceable credit against income tax for health insurance costs, to allow employees who elect not to participate in employer subsidized health plans an exclusion from gross income for employer payments in lieu of such participations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and Education and Labor, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. WEXLER (for himself and Mr. SENSENBRENNER):

H.R. 5924. A bill to provide relief for the shortage of nurses in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. WOOLSEY (for herself and Mr. SHAYS):

H.R. 5925. A bill to establish a fund to support international efforts for political reconciliation in Iraq, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. ALTMIRE (for himself, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. BOOZMAN, and Mr. BILIRAKIS):

H. Con. Res. 336. Concurrent resolution honoring the sacrifices and contributions made by disabled American veterans; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. ALLEN (for himself, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. SUTTON, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. FARR, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. WAXMAN, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. ROTHMAN, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. OLVER, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. TANNER, Mr. MILLER of North Carolina, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. COHEN, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. DINGELL, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, and Mr. CHABOT):

H. Con. Res. 337. Concurrent resolution honoring Seeds of Peace for its 15th anniversary as an organization promoting understanding, reconciliation, acceptance, coexistence, and peace in the Middle East, South Asia, and other regions of conflict; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. WATERS (for herself, Mr. BACA, Mr. BECERRA, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. BILBRAY, Mrs. BONO MACK, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. CAMPBELL of California, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. CARDOZA, Mr. COSTA, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. DREIER, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. FARR, Mr. FILNER, Mr. GALLEGLY, Ms. HARMAN, Mr. HONDA, Ms. LEE, Mr. LEWIS of California, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. MCCARTHY of California, Mr. MCKEON, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. RICHARDSON, Mr. ROHRBACHER, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. SOLIS, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. STARK, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. WATSON, Mr. WAXMAN, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California, Mr. RADANOVICH, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. ISSA, and Mr. HUNTER):

H. Con. Res. 338. Concurrent resolution recognizing the Honorable Yvonne Brathwaite Burke for her distinguished career in public service; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. ROSS:

H. Res. 1155. A resolution honoring the recipients of the El Dorado Promise scholarship; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. BOOZMAN (for himself, Mr. ROSS, Mr. SNYDER, and Mr. BERRY):

H. Res. 1158. A resolution recognizing the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the Ozark National Forest in Arkansas; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. CUMMINGS (for himself, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. CARSON, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. FILNER, Mr. FORTUÑO, Ms. LEE, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. ROTHMAN, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. RUSH, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. SNYDER, Mr. STARK,

Mr. TOWNS, Ms. WATSON, Mr. WYNN, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, and Mrs. CHRISTENSEN):

H. Res. 1159. A resolution recognizing the historical significance of the United States sloop-of-war Constellation as a surviving witness to the horrors of the Transatlantic Slave Trade and a leading participant in America's effort to end the practice; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania:

H. Res. 1160. A resolution authorizing Members of the House of Representatives to use funds provided for official and representational duties to sponsor and conduct academic and community service competitions among elementary and secondary school students in their Congressional districts and to permit the use of the facilities of their offices in support of the activities of charitable organizations; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mrs. LOWEY:

H. Res. 1161. A resolution encouraging State and local governments to establish plastic bag recycling programs; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York (for herself, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, and Mr. PLATTS):

H. Res. 1162. A resolution supporting the goals and ideas of a National Child Care Worthy Wage Day; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mrs. MUSGRAVE:

H. Res. 1163. A resolution expressing the support and sympathy of the House of Representatives and the people of the United States for the victims of the tragic fire that occurred in Ordway, Colorado, on April 16, 2008; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts:

H. Res. 1164. A resolution expressing support for designation of May 2008 as "National Workforce Development Professionals Month"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. POE (for himself, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. PLATTS, Mr. TIAHRT, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. BILBRAY, Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. CARTER, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. PAUL, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. TERRY, Mr. TOWNS, Ms. BORDALLO, and Mr. HALL of Texas):

H. Res. 1165. A resolution honoring the life and accomplishments of the actor Jimmy Stewart and the contributions he made to the Nation on the 100th anniversary of his birth; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. WEXLER (for himself, Mr. BERMAN, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Mr. SHUSTER, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. KIND, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. McNULTY, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. FORTUÑO, Mr. SESTAK, Mr. SIREs, Mr. ROTHMAN, and Mr. DREIER):

H. Res. 1166. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding provocative and dangerous statements and actions taken by the Government of the Russian Federation that undermine the territorial integrity of the Republic of Georgia; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 21: Mr. ANDREWS.
H.R. 96: Ms. DEGETTE.
H.R. 111: Ms. SUTTON and Mr. FOSTER.
H.R. 135: Mr. HINOJOSA and Mr. CALVERT.
H.R. 139: Mr. SHUSTER.
H.R. 154: Mr. HINOJOSA.
H.R. 191: Mr. PITTS.
H.R. 303: Mr. SALI and Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 436: Mrs. MYRICK.
H.R. 549: Mr. CARNEY.
H.R. 552: Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. CASTLE, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, and Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS.
H.R. 594: Mr. FATTAH and Mr. WALZ of Minnesota.
H.R. 646: Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 662: Mr. FILNER.
H.R. 688: Mr. FERGUSON and Mr. CARTER.
H.R. 728: Mr. SHAYS.
H.R. 748: Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. SPACE, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. MATSUI, and Mr. BROWN of South Carolina.
H.R. 821: Mr. BACA.
H.R. 826: Mr. FORTUÑO.
H.R. 882: Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Mr. SCHIFF, and Mrs. BACHMANN.
H.R. 991: Mrs. BACHMANN.
H.R. 1022: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina and Mr. MEEK of Florida.
H.R. 1078: Mr. DAVIS of Illinois.
H.R. 1107: Ms. RICHARDSON.
H.R. 1110: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. CARSON, Mr. TIAHRT, Ms. SUTTON, Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California and Mrs. BACHMANN.
H.R. 1147: Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 1185: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California, and Mr. SIREs.
H.R. 1197: Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 1272: Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 1293: Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 1308: Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 1328: Mr. MEEKS of New York.
H.R. 1343: Mr. DEFazio.
H.R. 1354: Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 1366: Mr. PITTS.
H.R. 1431: Mr. TOWNS.
H.R. 1435: Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 1440: Mr. BARROW.
H.R. 1518: Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 1542: Mr. FATTAH.
H.R. 1546: Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 1553: Mr. SHERMAN and Mr. KIRK.
H.R. 1594: Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 1606: Mrs. NAPOLITANO.
H.R. 1609: Mr. WALDEN of Oregon, Mr. BOREN, and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.
H.R. 1619: Mr. MOORE of Kansas.
H.R. 1643: Mr. SESTAK.
H.R. 1645: Mr. ANDREWS and Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 1653: Mr. SARBANES.
H.R. 1738: Mr. CARSON and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.
H.R. 1742: Mr. ELLISON, Mr. WYNN, and Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey.
H.R. 1755: Mr. LOEBSACK.
H.R. 1763: Mr. GUTIERREZ.
H.R. 1776: Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. ARCURI, Mr. WYNN, and Mr. REYES.
H.R. 1884: Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mrs. EMERSON, Mr. ROSKAM, Mr. MORAN of Kansas, Ms. BEAN, Mr. BERRY, Mr. UPTON, Mr. FARR, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. CARSON, and Mr. SALI.
H.R. 1927: Mr. WAXMAN and Ms. MATSUI.
H.R. 1944: Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 1952: Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 1956: Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 1983: Mr. UPTON.
H.R. 2012: Mr. ROSKAM, Mr. FARR, and Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN.
H.R. 2032: Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. ARCURI, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CARSON, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mr. WELCH of Vermont.

H.R. 2045: Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 2053: Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. EVERETT, and Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 2092: Mr. CARSON and Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.
H.R. 2140: Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 2158: Mr. PITTS.
H.R. 2167: Mr. LEWIS of Georgia.
H.R. 2172: Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 2188: Mr. UPTON, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, and Mr. HINCHEY.
H.R. 2205: Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, Mr. CARSON, and Mr. BACA.
H.R. 2219: Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 2221: Mr. AL GREEN of Texas.
H.R. 2236: Mr. MEEKS of New York.
H.R. 2244: Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 2266: Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin.
H.R. 2268: Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. JONES of North Carolina, Mr. BACA, Mr. HERGER, Mr. WELCH of Vermont, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. KLINE of Minnesota, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. MORAN of Kansas, and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.
H.R. 2325: Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida.
H.R. 2353: Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 2370: Ms. BERKLEY and Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 2371: Mr. ROTHMAN.
H.R. 2380: Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 2417: Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 2472: Mr. PORTER.
H.R. 2511: Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 2514: Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 2552: Mr. PAYNE, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. WAXMAN, and Mr. ABERCROMBIE.
H.R. 2676: Mr. CARSON and Mr. REGULA.
H.R. 2677: Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 2702: Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania and Mrs. DAVIS of California.
H.R. 2731: Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 2744: Ms. HARMAN and Ms. KAPTUR.
H.R. 2749: Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 2790: Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 2805: Mr. RAHALL and Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 2851: Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. ELLSWORTH, Mr. CARSON, and Mr. ROTHMAN.
H.R. 2852: Mr. FILNER, Mr. ELLISON, and Mr. DENT.
H.R. 2896: Mr. ROSS.
H.R. 2965: Mr. ETHERIDGE and Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.
H.R. 2991: Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 2994: Mr. CARSON and Mr. WELCH of Vermont.
H.R. 3005: Mr. CARSON and Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.
H.R. 3008: Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 3016: Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 3061: Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 3063: Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. ARCURI, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. HALL of New York, Mr. HINCHEY, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. McNULTY, Mr. MEEKS of New York, and Mr. TOWNS.
H.R. 3078: Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 3080: Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut.
H.R. 3098: Mr. SULLIVAN.
H.R. 3109: Mrs. CUBIN.
H.R. 3127: Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 3189: Mr. DAVIS of Alabama.
H.R. 3202: Mrs. MALONEY of New York.
H.R. 3249: Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 3251: Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 3257: Mr. COHEN, Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. ELLISON, and Mr. BOSWELL.
H.R. 3267: Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. ELLISON, and Ms. CLARKE.
H.R. 3282: Mr. PASTOR.
H.R. 3287: Ms. LEE.
H.R. 3298: Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 3404: Mr. CARSON.

H.R. 3457: Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 3543: Mr. WEXLER, Mr. PASTOR, and Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 3544: Mr. CARSON, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, Mrs. CAPPS, and Mr. MATHESON.
H.R. 3561: Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 3563: Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 3622: Mr. WATT, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Ms. LEE, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. KLEIN of Florida, Mr. CARSON, Ms. RICHARDSON, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. ELLSWORTH, Ms. CLARKE and Mr. LANGEVIN.
H.R. 3634: Mr. ROTHMAN.
H.R. 3650: Mr. CULBERSON.
H.R. 3652: Ms. DEGETTE.
H.R. 3658: Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, and Mr. SHERMAN.
H.R. 3700: Mr. DOYLE.
H.R. 3750: Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 3769: Ms. DEGETTE and Mr. RODRIGUEZ.
H.R. 3819: Mr. BUCHANAN.
H.R. 3870: Mr. HARE, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Ms. WOOLSEY, and Mr. FARR.
H.R. 3886: Mr. PAYNE and Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 3926: Mr. ARCURI.
H.R. 3934: Mr. CARSON and Mr. LAMPSON.
H.R. 3944: Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mr. JACKSON of Illinois.
H.R. 3961: Mr. CARNAHAN.
H.R. 4008: Mr. MITCHELL.
H.R. 4044: Mr. ALLEN.
H.R. 4061: Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. CARSON, and Mr. DOGGETT.
H.R. 4089: Mr. ELLISON.
H.R. 4105: Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas and Ms. LEE.
H.R. 4107: Mr. ALLEN, Mrs. CAPPS, and Mr. ETHERIDGE.
H.R. 4114: Mr. FILNER.
H.R. 4133: Mr. LINDER, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. WESTMORELAND, and Mr. SHADEGG.
H.R. 4141: Mr. TERRY and Mr. LOBIONDO.
H.R. 4188: Mrs. MALONEY of New York.
H.R. 4206: Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 4207: Mr. DAVIS of Illinois.
H.R. 4221: Mr. MCGOVERN and Mr. CLAY.
H.R. 4237: Mrs. CHRISTENSEN and Mr. FARR.
H.R. 4296: Mr. CARSON and Mrs. BLACKBURN.
H.R. 4301: Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 4318: Mr. CANTOR and Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 4332: Mrs. CAPITO.
H.R. 4335: Mr. NADLER.
H.R. 4461: Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota.
H.R. 4544: Mr. BOOZMAN and Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H.R. 4651: Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 4652: Mr. CARNAHAN, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, and Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York.
H.R. 4736: Mr. PRICE of Georgia.
H.R. 4807: Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 4836: Mr. ELLSWORTH.
H.R. 4879: Ms. CLARKE.
H.R. 4884: Mrs. MALONEY of New York.
H.R. 4930: Mr. SCOTT of Georgia and Mr. SALI.
H.R. 4935: Ms. GRANGER, Mr. PAYNE, and Mr. RUPPERSBERGER.
H.R. 4990: Mr. PAYNE and Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 5161: Mr. LEWIS of Georgia.
H.R. 5176: Mr. RODRIGUEZ and Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 5180: Mr. MANZULLO.
H.R. 5223: Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas.
H.R. 5229: Mr. BOUCHER.
H.R. 5244: Mr. COURTNEY and Mr. ALLEN.
H.R. 5266: Mr. KENNEDY.
H.R. 5267: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.
H.R. 5404: Mr. MICHAUD.
H.R. 5440: Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN.
H.R. 5443: Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina.

H.R. 5446: Mr. ROTHMAN and Mr. FILNER.
H.R. 5447: Mr. CLEAVER, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, and Mr. KUCINICH.
H.R. 5450: Mrs. CUBIN, Mrs. TAUSCHER, and Mr. SHULER.
H.R. 5461: Mr. WEXLER.
H.R. 5465: Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota and Mr. WELCH of Vermont.
H.R. 5488: Mr. DAVIS of Texas.
H.R. 5505: Mr. EMANUEL.
H.R. 5507: Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. TOWNS, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. FILNER, Mr. CLAY, Mr. STARK, and Mr. OLVER.
H.R. 5519: Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. PAUL, Mr. FEENEY, Mr. CARSON, and Mr. HARE.
H.R. 5532: Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H.R. 5544: Mr. MCCOTTER and Mrs. BLACKBURN.
H.R. 5545: Mr. MCCOTTER.
H.R. 5546: Mr. ALLEN and Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas.
H.R. 5549: Mr. SIRES and Mr. FARR.
H.R. 5573: Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania and Mr. MICHAUD.
H.R. 5590: Mr. SIMPSON and Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas.
H.R. 5603: Mr. RAHALL and Mr. LATTI.
H.R. 5606: Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, and Mr. WAXMAN.
H.R. 5611: Mr. BOUSTANY and Mr. HENSARLING.
H.R. 5629: Mr. HONDA.
H.R. 5641: Mrs. Bono MACK.
H.R. 5656: Mrs. DRAKE and Mr. BARTON of Texas.
H.R. 5669: Mr. GONZALEZ, Ms. LEE, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, and Mr. COSTELLO.
H.R. 5672: Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 5673: Mr. BACHUS, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. CARTER, Mr. HAYES, Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois, and Mr. SHADEGG.
H.R. 5674: Mr. KINGSTON.
H.R. 5683: Mr. FILNER.
H.R. 5684: Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. KLEIN of Florida, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. BACA, and Mr. ALLEN.
H.R. 5690: Mr. WELCH of Vermont and Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas.
H.R. 5700: Mr. SPACE, Mr. ETHERIDGE, and Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 5703: Mr. RAMSTAD.
H.R. 5704: Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida.
H.R. 5709: Mr. WALZ of Minnesota.
H.R. 5713: Mr. JONES of North Carolina.
H.R. 5716: Mr. CONYERS.
H.R. 5734: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. GOODE, and Mr. WELCH of Vermont.
H.R. 5737: Mrs. CUBIN.
H.R. 5740: Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. WU, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. BACA, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, and Mr. DOYLE.
H.R. 5752: Mr. GINGREY.
H.R. 5759: Mr. SALI and Mrs. CUBIN.
H.R. 5761: Mr. MCINTYRE.
H.R. 5769: Mr. ARCURI.
H.R. 5775: Mr. PITTS.
H.R. 5776: Mrs. CUBIN.
H.R. 5784: Mr. TIAHRT.
H.R. 5787: Mr. TANNER.
H.R. 5795: Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina.
H.R. 5797: Mrs. BLACKBURN.
H.R. 5802: Mr. HINCHEY.
H.R. 5805: Mr. SALI and Mr. RENZI.
H.R. 5816: Mr. WALBERG and Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida.
H.R. 5818: Mr. MCGOVERN and Mr. SIRES.
H.R. 5821: Mr. SHAYS.
H.R. 5823: Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Ms. CLARKE, and Mr. CROWLEY.
H.R. 5824: Mr. BOSWELL, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. SUTTON, Mr. ALTMIRE, and Mr. RODRIGUEZ.

H.R. 5825: Mr. HILL, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. LATTI, Mr. PICKERING, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, and Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 5828: Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN and Mr. BURTON of Indiana.
H.R. 5829: Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 5830: Mr. CAPUANO and Mr. CUMMINGS.
H.R. 5831: Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, and Mr. TOWNS.
H.R. 5833: Mr. WU.
H.R. 5834: Mr. MANZULLO and Mr. SHERMAN.
H.R. 5835: Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 5838: Ms. WOOLSEY.
H.R. 5841: Mr. FEENEY.
H.R. 5846: Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California.
H.R. 5847: Mr. CHABOT, Mr. JONES of North Carolina, and Mr. LOBIONDO.
H.R. 5854: Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota, Mr. FARR, and Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 5858: Mr. MCINTYRE.
H.R. 5868: Mr. GINGREY, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. BROUN of Georgia, Mr. DEAL of Georgia, Mr. PORTER, Mrs. BONO MACK, Mr. HALL of Texas, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mrs. DRAKE, Mr. PITTS, Mr. KELLER, Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. CARTER, Mr. HELLER, Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee, Mr. SALI, Mr. WITTMAN of Virginia, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. HOBSON, Mr. POE, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. EHLERS, Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. LINDER, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. COBLE, Mr. SAXTON, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. REHEBERG, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. ROSKAM, Mr. AKIN, Mr. FORBES, Mr. TOWNS, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, Mr. JORDAN, Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, and Mrs. EMERSON.
H.R. 5869: Mr. GONZALEZ and Ms. GIFFORDS.
H.R. 5886: Mr. POE.
H.R. 5901: Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas and Ms. NORTON.
H.J. Res. 23: Mr. WALBERG.
H.J. Res. 39: Mr. SARBANES.
H.J. Res. 79: Mr. FILNER.
H. Con. Res. 134: Mr. COHEN.
H. Con. Res. 257: Mr. MCHUGH, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. MARSHALL, and Mr. HAYES.
H. Con. Res. 294: Mr. WEXLER and Mr. DEFazio.
H. Con. Res. 299: Mr. OLVER, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. WOLF, Mr. MCCOTTER, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Tennessee, Mr. GONZALEZ, and Mr. NADLER.
H. Con. Res. 317: Mr. MCCOTTER.
H. Con. Res. 318: Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. HONDA, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, and Mr. WAXMAN.
H. Con. Res. 320: Mr. CUMMINGS.
H. Con. Res. 321: Mr. CASTLE, Mr. OLVER, and Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.
H. Con. Res. 330: Ms. LEE, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. COHEN, and Ms. ROYBAL-AL-LARD.
H. Con. Res. 331: Ms. GRANGER, Mr. MCDERMOTT, and Mr. McNULTY.
H. Con. Res. 332: Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. FORTUÑO, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. MILLER of North Carolina, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Mr. WOLF, Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina, Mr. POE, Mr. PITTS, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. PENCE, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. MELANCON, Mr. CARNAHAN, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. SIRES, Mr. FARR, Ms. LEE, Mrs. MUSGRAVE, and Mr. WU.
H. Con. Res. 334: Mr. CASTLE, Mr. PLATTS, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mrs. MILLER of

Michigan, Mr. UPTON, Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia, Mr. GILCHREST, Ms. PRYCE of Ohio, Mr. DENT, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. YOUNG of Florida, Mr. CANNON, Ms. FOXX, Mr. ISSA, Mr. SALI, Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. FEENEY, and Mr. KIRK.

H. Res. 49: Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota.

H. Res. 76: Mr. LEWIS of Georgia.

H. Res. 353: Mr. REYES and Mr. CARSON.

H. Res. 356: Mr. TERRY.

H. Res. 389: Mr. ENGEL, Mr. FALCOMA, and Mr. SHERMAN.

H. Res. 415: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.

H. Res. 674: Mr. ROTHMAN.

H. Res. 834: Mr. BLUMENAUER.

H. Res. 881: Mr. SPACE, Mr. MAHONEY of Florida, Mr. BOYD of Florida, and Mr. CRAMER.

H. Res. 937: Mr. SALI and Mr. FOSSELLA.

H. Res. 977: Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, and Mr. CARSON.

H. Res. 1008: Mr. ETHERIDGE.

H. Res. 1009: Mr. SHAYS.

H. Res. 1011: Mr. SHERMAN and Mr. MICHAUD.

H. Res. 1022: Mrs. TAUSCHER and Mr. HINCHEY.

H. Res. 1043: Mr. FALCOMA and Mr. TERRY.

H. Res. 1062: Mr. ROTHMAN.

H. Res. 1063: Mr. SHERMAN.

H. Res. 1064: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey and Mr. FEENEY.

H. Res. 1069: Mr. BOREN, Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. ROTHMAN, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. GIFFORDS, and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.

H. Res. 1079: Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania.

H. Res. 1080: Mr. ISSA and Mr. RANGEL.

H. Res. 1086: Mr. TOWNS, Mr. EDWARDS, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. ORTIZ, Mr. REYES, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. KILPATRICK, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. LATHAM, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. TERRY, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. OLVER, Ms. NORTON, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. OBERSTAR, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. COSTELLO, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. HOLT, Mr. PORTER, Mr. ALTMIRE, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. MATHESON, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. HOLDEN, and Ms. HIRONO.

H. Res. 1091: Mr. BURGESS, Mr. ALTMIRE, and Mr. HASTINGS of Washington.

H. Res. 1093: Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. HINCHEY, and Mr. WELCH of Vermont.

H. Res. 1100: Mr. JORDAN.

H. Res. 1104: Mr. STARK, Mr. COSTA, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, and Mr. WAXMAN.

H. Res. 1109: Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. ROHRBACHER, and Mr. BURTON of Indiana.

H. Res. 1110: Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. ROTHMAN, and Mr. LAMBORN.

H. Res. 1113: Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California, Mr. PITTS, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SHULER, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. BROUN of Georgia, Mr. LOEBACK, Mr. MORAN of Kansas, Mr. COLE of Oklahoma, Mr. FEENEY, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky, Mr. TERRY, Mr. MCCAUL of Texas, Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, and Mr. KELLER.

H. Res. 1114: Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California, Mr. PITTS, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SHULER, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. BROUN of Georgia, Mr. LOEBACK, Mr. MORAN of Kansas, Mr. COLE of Oklahoma, Mr. FEENEY, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky, Mr. TERRY, Mr. MCCAUL of Texas, Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, and Mr. KELLER.

H. Res. 1122: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico, and Mr. CULBERSON.

H. Res. 1124: Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. LOEBACK, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. HOOLEY, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. CARSON, Mr. INSLEE, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. RUSH, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. COSTELLO, Mr. McDERMOTT, and Mr. STARK.

H. Res. 1130: Mr. RANGEL, Mr. SALI, Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. CARSON, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. REICHERT, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. FATTAH, and Mr. NEUGEBAUER.

H. Res. 1131: Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, and Ms. DeGETTE.

H. Res. 1132: Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. LATTI, Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky, Mr. UPTON, Mrs. DRAKE, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. HOLT, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Ms. SUTTON, Mr. REYNOLDS, Mr. WALBERG, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Mr. CUBELLAR, Mrs. SCHMIDT, Mr. REICHERT, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. WOLF, Ms. GRANGER, Mrs. BACHMANN, Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota, Mr. GOODE, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. McHENRY, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. COSTA, and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.

H. Res. 1134: Mr. BERMAN, Mrs. BONO MACK, Mr. BOSWELL, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. COHEN, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. HOLT, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. NADLER, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. SUTTON, Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. FALCOMA, Mr. FARR, Ms. GIFFORDS, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. KILPATRICK, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LOEBACK, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. OBERSTAR.

H. Res. 1140: Mr. SALI, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. BERMAN, and Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina.

H. Res. 1144: Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. SIRES, Mr. COHEN, and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.

H. Res. 1146: Mr. HINCHEY.

H. Res. 1149: Ms. LEE, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Ms. RICHARDSON, Mr. HARE, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. TOWNS, Ms. NORTON, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. FATTAH, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Ms. WOOLSEY, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Ms. KILPATRICK, Mr. MCHUGH, Mr. SARBANES, and Mr. LIPINSKI.

H. Res. 1153: Ms. SOLIS, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. COHEN, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SESTAK, Mr. ELLISON, and Mr. SCOTT of Georgia.

H. Res. 1154: Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. LYNCH, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Ms. DeLAURO, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. JEFFERSON, and Mr. MEEKS of New York.

CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, OR LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Under clause 9 of rule XXI, lists or statements on congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits were submitted as follows:

OFFERED BY MR. BISHOP OF UTAH

Today the House of Representatives will consider S. 2739. Section 504 of S. 2739 author-

izes funding for the Arthur V. Watkins Dam Enlargement Project. This language is similar to language found in H.R. 839, a bill which authorizes a feasibility study on raising the height of the Arthur V. Watkins Dam at Willard Bay in Box Elder County, Utah. The entity authorized to receive funding under this request is the Department of the Interior at 1849 C. Street, Washington, DC 20240.

The authorized study is cost shared 50/50 between Weber Basin and the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) at the Department of the Interior, a record of BOR's finance plan is not available. However, a copy of Weber Basin's finance plan (for its share of the project) is attached.

This project is justified as the Arthur V. Watkins Dam is a federally owned water storage facility. It is managed by the Weber Basin Water Conservancy District, a political subdivision of the State of Utah. Water stored in this facility serves the culinary water needs of Weber, Davis and Box Elder Counties, which encompass some of the most populous areas of northern Utah. The federal government has made a significant financial commitment to the State of Utah to ensure that this arid state has adequate water resources to meet the needs of its residents. This authorization ensures that.

A.V. WATKINS DAM RAISE FEASIBILITY STUDY

Under a feasibility study to be prepared by Reclamation an integrated feasibility report and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance document will be prepared to address the potential raise of A.V. Watkins Dam to accommodate additional storage of 10,000 acre-feet.

The following areas and estimated costs are presented to cover the study:

Item	Description	Estimated cost
1	NEPA: Investigation and report of environmental impacts and appropriate federal actions.	\$500,000
2	Cultural Mitigation Plan: Investigation of impacts to cultural findings and corresponding recovery plan.	200,000
3	Water Rights: Review and verification of the preliminary water rights work originally conducted. Will include coordination with the Utah Division of Water Rights.	50,000
4	Investigations/Drilling/Laboratory Testing: A study of existing physical conditions including field testing and verification of existing geology of the entire 14 mile dam.	900,000
5	Hydrology: Review and verification of the available river flows from the Ogden and Weber rivers.	50,000
6	Feasibility Design/Drawings/Report: Culmination of the feasibility study including written conclusions from each of the above investigations.	300,000
Total		2,000,000

Expected duration of report—1½ to 2 years.

The Weber Basin Water Conservancy District (District), in an effort to insure that it is able to meet the ever increasing demand for water throughout its service area, continues to evaluate the need for improvements, including the development of new resources. Part of the challenges facing the District in this effort are: identifying growth patterns and projecting future populations by geographic location; estimating the total water consumption of the projected population both indoors and outdoors; and evaluating existing supplies to determine how to most effectively utilize those supplies, particularly in times of drought. Through these proactive efforts, a need for additional resources has been identified in order for the District to meet future demands along the Wasatch Front.

To estimate the future demand for water within the District's service area across the Wasatch Front, the District completed the

Supply and Demand Study (January 2008), in which population projections were developed through build-out, and the associated water demand of that population estimated based on historic water use. The demands were then compared to available District supplies, including those developed by the United States Bureau of Reclamation via the Weber Basin Project, those developed or being developed by the District, and outside resources that are controlled by various independent agencies (municipalities, improvement districts, etc.). Based on the results of this study, the District anticipates a need for one or more additional raw water resources within the next 20 years; possibly as early as 2015. Future sources that are being considered include wastewater reuse (for outdoor irrigation use), aquifer storage and recovery, and the importation of water from the Bear River. Even with the full development of all of the new resources listed, it is anticipated that the supply will still be inadequate to meet projected demands without aggressive coinciding conservation efforts. The District has implemented an aggressive water conservation plan with a goal to reduce per capita water consumption by 25 percent by 2025.

Although the need for additional water supplies within the District's service area is becoming increasingly evident, nowhere is it more evident than in the Weber County area. Population projections predict that much of the future growth along the Wasatch Front will occur in the area of western Weber County. As growth has tended to move outward from the Salt Lake City area, from Davis County into Weber County, the District has observed increasing demands on the Weber South and Davis North Treatment Plants (located in southern Weber County and northern Davis County respectively). Those plants are now approaching capacity during times of peak demand. To evaluate the need for additional treatment plant capacity, the District recently retained consulting engineers to examine several strategic locations for construction of a new water treatment plant to meet increasing demands. The resulting Implementation Plan and Schedule (Technical Memorandum 11, Site Evaluation for the New Weber West WTP and Related Facilities, Draft dated 06/11/07) indicates that in order to keep up with the increasing demand resulting from growth in western Weber County, a new centrally located treatment plant will be required. The report further concludes that design of the new raw water conveyance facilities should commence in early 2009, with construction beginning in late 2010. Completion and commissioning of all facilities would then be scheduled for 2012. All of the possible water treatment plant sites considered were assumed to utilize raw water from storage at Arthur V. Watkins Dam/Willard Bay Reservoir.

Based on current projections, the need for additional water supplies along the Wasatch Front is both certain and imminent. With the Bureau of Reclamation already having filed for additional water rights from the Ogden and Weber rivers, raising the Arthur V. Watkins Dam would effectively increase the water that can be stored in Willard Bay by an additional 10,000 to 70,000 acre-feet and would make it available for use within the time projected for additional demand. Arthur V. Watkins Dam/Willard Bay Reservoir is strategically located relative to future demands, and as an existing facility could be increased at a relative lesser cost, and without the significant impacts that are sure to accompany other projects of this magnitude.

OFFERED BY MR. GEORGE MILLER OF CALIFORNIA

The amendment to be offered by Representative GEORGE MILLER or a designee to

H.R. 5522, the Worker Protection Against Combustible Dust Explosion and Fire Act, does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9(d), 9(e), or 9(f) of Rule XXI.

OFFERED BY MR. WALDEN OF OREGON

Bill Number: S. 2739 (H.R. 495).

Account: Secretary of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity(ies): The North Unit Irrigation District Act—Requesting Entity: North Unit Irrigation District, Madras, Oregon; The Deschutes River Conservancy Reauthorization Act—Requesting Entity: Deschutes River Conservancy, Bend, Oregon; The Wallowa Lake Dam Rehabilitation Act—Requesting Entity: Associated Ditch Company, Joseph, Oregon; The Little Butte/Bear Creek Subbasins Water Feasibility Act—Requesting Entity: City of Medford, Medford, Oregon.

Address of Requesting Entity(ies): North Unit Irrigation Districts, 2024 NW Beech Streets, Madras, Oregon 97740, (ph) 541-475-3625; Deschutes River Conservancy, 700 NW Hill Street, Bend Oregon 97701, (ph) 541-382-4077; Associated Ditch Company, 1102 Engleside Avenue, Joseph, Oregon 97846, (ph) 541-432-6155; City of Medford, 411 W 8th Street #312, Medford, Oregon 97501, (ph) 541-774-2000.

Description of Request(s): I am the author of H.R. 495, the Oregon Water Resources Management Act of 2007, which is a package of water-related bills contained within S. 2739 which is scheduled to be considered by the full House on April 29, 2008. On July 23, 2007, the House of Representatives passed this package of bills included in H.R. 495 by voice vote. H.R. 495 is identical to the bill passed unanimously by the Resources Committee and the full House in the 109th Congress (H.R. 5079). All of these measures, described in detail below, are related to projects in my district and have been thoroughly vetted through the Committee and are supported by my colleagues from Oregon in the United States Senate, Senators Ron Wyden and Gordon Smith. H.R. 495 does not have a direct and foreseeable effect on the pecuniary interests of me or my spouse.

Deschutes River Conservancy Reauthorization Act—Bill language would amend the Oregon Resource Conservation Act of 1996 to reauthorize the participation of the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) in the Deschutes River Conservancy (DRC) through Fiscal Year 2015. The DRC was originally authorized by Congress in 1996 to implement water conservation measures in the Deschutes River basin. The DRC was founded by local irrigation districts, the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation, conservation groups, and other local stakeholders in an effort to focus on practical, incentive-based solutions to the basin's water management challenges. The DRC has leased over 70 cubic feet per second of water in the basin's streams and has restored over 100 miles of stream corridor using livestock management techniques, restored channel floodplain connectivity, and planted over 250,000 native plants and trees in the riparian zone. The DRC has permanently acquired about 9,200 acre-feet of senior water rights in the Deschutes Basin that will remain instream during critical low flow periods, benefiting fish species such as ESA listed bull trout and summer steelhead. The bill has received positive and bipartisan support in the House and Senate, is supported by the DRC, the local community and Reclamation. This bill would authorize \$2 million per year over 10 years in federal spending. The use of federal funding for this project is justified because it would address critical water

shortage issues in the summer months that have a direct impact on federal Endangered Species Act listed salmon and steelhead.

Wallowa Lake Dam Rehabilitation Act—Bill language authorizes the Bureau of Reclamation to provide grants, or to enter into cooperative agreements, with tribal, State, local governmental entities and the Associated Ditch Companies to plan, design, and repair Wallowa Lake Dam. Over the last several years I have visited Wallowa County on a number of occasions to convene meetings with both proponents and opponents of this legislation in order to gain a full understanding of the situation and to discuss the merits of this proposal. These meetings have clearly demonstrated that the overwhelming majority of Wallowa County residents support this bill and its main tenet—the rehabilitation of the Wallowa Lake Dam—has been identified by the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers as a high hazard structure. H.R. 495 authorizes \$6 million in federal funds for dam rehabilitation; however, spending authority sunsets after 10 years and requires a 50/50 federal/local cost share match. Federal funding for this project is justified to not only protect citizens from the highly hazardous Wallowa Lake Dam, but to assist with the tremendous environmental costs that directly result from the presence of federally listed Endangered Species Act salmon and steelhead in the dam rehabilitation project.

Little Butte/Bear Creek Subbasins Water Feasibility Act—Bill language would authorize the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) to conduct a needed water management feasibility study and environmental impact statement for the Water for Irrigation, Streams, and the Economy Project in accordance with the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between City of Medford and Reclamation in order to address water management issues for irrigation, municipal use and conservation. This bill language passed the Senate by unanimous consent in November 2005 and the bill is nearly identical to legislation I sponsored in the 108th Congress which received a hearing in the Subcommittee on Water and Power, passed by the Committee by unanimous consent, and ultimately passed the House by voice vote in September of 2004. H.R. 495 authorizes \$500,000 in federal funds; however, spending authority sunsets after 10 years and requires a 50/50 federal/local cost share match. Federal funds are justified because the federal partnership established via the MOA is for the express purpose of addressing federal Clean Water Act and Endangered Species Act (ESA) requirements. Additionally, Congress needs to provide Reclamation the authority to achieve the goals of the MOA and also provide funds due to costs from addressing previous acts of Congress, including the Clean Water Act and ESA.

North Unit Irrigation District Act—Bill language amends a repayment contract between the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and the North Unit Irrigation District (District) to meet State water conservation law and allow the District to improve its overall water management and efficiency. The bill increases the maximum irrigated land within the District available to receive Deschutes Project water from 50,000 acres to 59,000 acres, and reclassifies that land. The legislation allows the repayment terms to shift from a variable to a fixed term, and would allow for accelerated repayment of capital costs. Finally, the legislation allows Reclamation to negotiate future contract terms without Congressional authorization, only after receiving written notice from the District and getting the consent of the Commissioner of Reclamation. The legislative authority granted in H.R. 495 to change the Reclamation contract would not require additional taxpayer funding above the existing

programmatic appropriations for the agency. Conservation efforts to provide additional instream water and other conservation projects cannot be implemented solely by the District without a change in their current Reclamation authorities; Congress provided the current authorities and only Congress can modify those authorities.

OFFERED BY MR. GARY G. MILLER OF CALIFORNIA

Bill Number: H.R. 1195.

Bill Section: Sec. 102.

Account: U.S. Department of Transportation.

Legal Entities To Receive Funding: Nevada Department of Transportation, 1263 South Stewart Street, Carson City, NV 89712, who shall cooperate with the California-Nevada Super Speed Train Commission, 400 Stewart Street, Las Vegas, NV 89101; U.S. Department of Transportation; 1200 New Jersey Ave., SE., Washington, DC 20590.

Description of Request: In the SAFETEA-LU Act, two Magnetic Levitation Transportation Projects (MAGLEV) received federal authorization for a total of \$90,000,000; however, mistakenly, contract authority was not assigned to these important projects. To ensure these MAGLEV projects have the funding necessary to succeed, I requested language to amend Section 1307 of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (119 Stat. 1217) to add contract authority to the projects at the funding levels authorized in SAFETEA-LU. The term "MAGLEV" means transportation systems employing magnetic levitation that would be capable of safe use by the public at a speed in excess of 240 miles per hour. According to SAFETEA-LU, this funding can be used for preconstruction planning activities and to supplement the cost of the fixed guideway infrastructure of these MAGLEV projects, including land, piers, guideways, propulsion equipment and other components attached to guideways, power distribution facilities substations, control and communications facilities, access roads, and storage, repair, and maintenance facilities. The federal cost share of these projects will be 80 percent.

MAGLEV is an advanced train technology that can offer competitive trip-time savings compared to alternative forms of travel over long distances. Federal funding is needed to deploy this technology further and thereby reduce congestion along heavily travelled corridors in the United States. In addition to the request for contract authority, I also requested that the project description contained in Sec. 102(d)(1) be amended to ensure the entire high-speed ground transportation corridor project, which starts in Las Vegas, Nevada, and extends to Anaheim, California, is authorized to receive federal assistance and that the project be coordinated with the California-Nevada Super Speed Train Commission.

OFFERED BY MRS. WILSON OF NEW MEXICO

Bill Number: S. 2739 (Companion H.R. 1904).

Account: Interior, Bureau of Land Management, USGS, Management of Lands and Resources.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: State of New Mexico.

Address of Requesting Entity: 1220 South St. Francis Drive, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505.

Description of Request: Provide a total earmark of \$12,000,000 apportioned in equal amounts of \$3,000,000 in Fiscal years FY08 through 2011 to assist the State of New Mexico in water planning. This includes: technical assistance and grants for the development of comprehensive State water plans, activities to conduct a mapping of water resources throughout the State, and to conduct a comprehensive study of groundwater resources (including potable, brackish, and saline) throughout the State. This assistance may include acquisition of hydrologic data, expansion of water monitoring networks, modeling of resources, coordination with Federal water management planning, integration of State planning forums and groups in the planning efforts, and technical reviews of data, models, planning scenarios and water plans developed by the State. Expansion of water resources throughout the State is critical to the continued development of the economy within the State.

The funding and levels of effort will be allocated approximately as follows: \$5,000,000 to develop hydrologic models covering the Rio Grande and Rios Pueblo de Taos and Hondo, Rios Nambé, Pojaque and Tesesque, Rio Chama, and Lower Rio Grande tributaries; \$1,500,000 for surveys for the San Juan River and tributaries; \$1,000,000 for surveys for the Southwest New Mexico basins, and \$4,500,000 for statewide digital mapping.

The non-Federal share of all work shall be 50% and may be provided with in-kind resource acceptable to the Secretary of the Interior.

DELETIONS OF SPONSORS FROM PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were deleted from public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 5534: Mr. BURTON of Indiana.

DISCHARGE PETITIONS

[Omitted from the Record of Apr. 25, 2008]

Under clause 2 of rule XV, the following discharge petition was filed:

Petition 7, April 23, 2008, by Mr. FOSSELLA on the bill (H.R. 5440), was signed by the following Members: Vito Fossella, John A. Boehner, John R. "Randy" Kuhl, Jr., Greg Walden, Virgil H. Goode, Jr., Peter Sessions, Gus M. Bilirakis, Joseph R. Pitts, David Davis, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, Jo Bonner, Joe Wilson, Tim Walberg, Dennis R. Rehberg, Robert E. Latta, Kevin McCarthy, Peter T. King, F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr., Candice S. Miller, John Kline, Ron Lewis, Heather Wilson, J. Gresham Barrett, Adrian Smith, Frank A. LoBiondo, Paul C. Broun, Dan Burton, Ander Crenshaw, Michael N. Castle,

Michele Bachmann, Mike Ferguson, Jim Jordan, Joe Knollenberg, Bill Sali, Jim Gerlach, Zach Wamp, Lynn A. Westmoreland, Rob Bishop, Charles W. Dent, Mark Steven Kirk, Louie Gohmert, Tom Price, Doc Hastings, Michael C. Burgess, Jeff Miller, Trent Franks, J. Randy Forbes, Tom Latham, Mac Thornberry, Terry Everett, Daniel E. Lungren, Harold Rogers, Kevin Brady, Phil Gingrey, Cathy McMorris Rodgers, Henry E. Brown, Jr., David Dreier, Jerry Lewis, Rick Renzi, Peter J. Roskam, Doug Lamborn, Ted Poe, Michael T. McCaul, Dana Rohrabacher, Jeff Fortenberry, Todd Tiahrt, Gary G. Miller, K. Michael Conaway, Ric Keller, Vern Buchanan, Dave Weldon, Geoff Davis, David G. Reichert, Darrell E. Issa, Dave Camp, John R. Carter, Kay Granger, Judy Biggert, Randy Neugebauer, Thaddeus G. McCotter, Thelma D. Drake, Tom Cole, Todd Russell Platts, W. Todd Akin, John M. McHugh, John L. Mica, Charles W. Boustany, Jr., Stevan Pearce, Elton Gallegly, Ken Calvert, Jon C. Porter, Thomas M. Reynolds, Howard Coble, Sam Johnson, Phil English, Jo Ann Emerson, Jean Schmidt, Howard P. "Buck" McKeon, Steve Buyer, Edward R. Royce, Barbara Cubin, Roy Blunt, Robert J. Wittman, John T. Doolittle, Vernon J. Ehlers, Steve Chabot, Mary Bono Mack, Virginia Foxx, Michael K. Simpson, Lincoln Diaz-Balart, Mario Diaz-Balart, Thomas G. Tancredo, James T. Walsh, Dean Heller, Rodney P. Frelinghuysen, Bob Inglis, Adam H. Putnam, Jim Ramstad, Christopher Shays, John Abney Culberson, Nathan Deal, Paul Ryan, Frank R. Wolf, Patrick J. Tiberi, Patrick T. McHenry, Wally Herger, Deborah Pryce, Michael R. Turner, Lee Terry, Frank D. Lucas, Devin Nunes, Kenny Marchant, Jim McCrery, John Linder, George Radanovich, Eric Cantor, Joe Barton, John B. Shadegg, John Shimkus, Scott Garrett, Marilyn N. Musgrave, Bob Goodlatte, Lamar Smith, Brian P. Bilbray, Bill Shuster, Spencer Bachus, Don Young, Steve King, Cliff Stearns, Mary Fallin, John Boozman, Steven C. LaTourette, C.W. Bill Young, Jeb Hensarling, Ed Whitfield, Tom Davis, Roscoe G. Bartlett, Jack Kingston, Donald A. Manzullo, Chris Cannon, Sue Wilkins Myrick, Mike Pence, Mike Rogers, Duncan Hunter, Christopher H. Smith, John Sullivan, Peter Hoekstra, Mark E. Souder, Jerry Moran, Charles W. "Chip" Pickering, Jim Saxton, David L. Hobson, John E. Peterson, Thomas E. Petri, Ralph M. Hall, and Sam Graves.

DISCHARGE PETITIONS—ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS

[Omitted from the Record of Apr. 25, 2008]

The following Member added his name to the following discharge petition:

Petition 6 by Mr. BOUSTANY on House Resolution 1025: Michael K. Simpson.